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Another Rally

*Huskers show resiliency again,
but this time it's not enough*



Brian Hill

ANOTHER week, another dramatic comeback.

But this time, it came up just short.

The debate will probably continue until next year's rematch in Austin as to whether the Huskers should have opted for a field goal with 16 seconds remaining. I have at least one witness who will confirm that I voted for the kick. But my vote doesn't count, and Frank Solich had his reasons.

Nebraska had been successful on just one of three field goal attempts earlier in the game, with one try spoiled by a high snap and another blocked.

If either or both of those had been successful, the game might not have come down to the final seconds.

Some will blame Jammal Lord for throwing into double coverage to a true freshman — split end Mark LeFlore — who has three catches all season, two earlier in this game.

But these young players have quickly become prime-time performers. Earlier in the fourth quarter, Lord lofted a perfect pass to another true freshman — tight end Matt Herian — who took his third catch of the season 60 yards for a touchdown after Texas had built a 20-10 lead.

The Longhorns would again take a 10-point lead (27-17) with just 3:24 remaining, before the Huskers again put their rally caps on.

Nebraska, which had used a three-play drive a week earlier as it rallied to defeat Texas A&M, this time needed just four plays and 50 seconds to cut the mar-

gin back to three and set the stage for the dramatic finish.

Texas looked like it had clinched the victory when Husker nemesis Roy Williams hauled in a third down pass from Chris Simms for an apparent first down. But a late flag was thrown, and Williams was called for offensive pass interference.

If you watch much football, you know how often officials call offensive interference, but they did this time, and the Longhorns had to punt the football back to Nebraska. DeJuan Groce, who had tried to keep up with Williams all night, returned the punt 44 yards to put the Huskers in business at the Texas 16 but with just 34 seconds and no timeouts remaining.

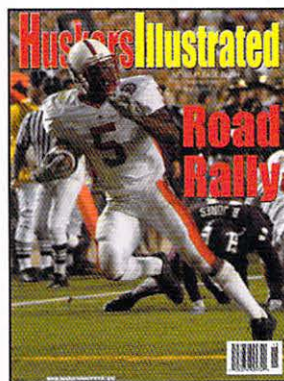
Lord was stopped for no gain and then spiked the ball to stop the clock with 16 seconds left. Solich elected to try one pass into the end zone, and the Huskers didn't get a second chance when Texas' Nathan Vasher intercepted with 10 seconds left.

You can read more about Nebraska's near upset in this week's edition of

Huskers Illustrated. Our feature story takes a look at the Huskers' Omaha Central connection, which includes LeFlore and freshman I-back David Horne. The subject of this week's player profile is wingback John Klem, who is known for his downfield blocking and helped pave the way for Lord's school record 234 yards rushing against the Longhorns.

For the second time in four years, Texas has ended a long Husker home winning streak. That's the bad news. The good news is that Nebraska put together another inspired effort against one of the top defenses in the country, part of a team that was rated No. 7 last week and that should move up. The Huskers took the Longhorns to the wire.

That's not bad for a 6-4 team that many had given up for dead two weeks earlier. ■



ON THE COVER

Nebraska quarterback Jammal Lord is consoled by teammates Wilson Thomas and T.J. Hollowell after a Texas interception ended the Huskers' chances. Photo by Scott Bruhn

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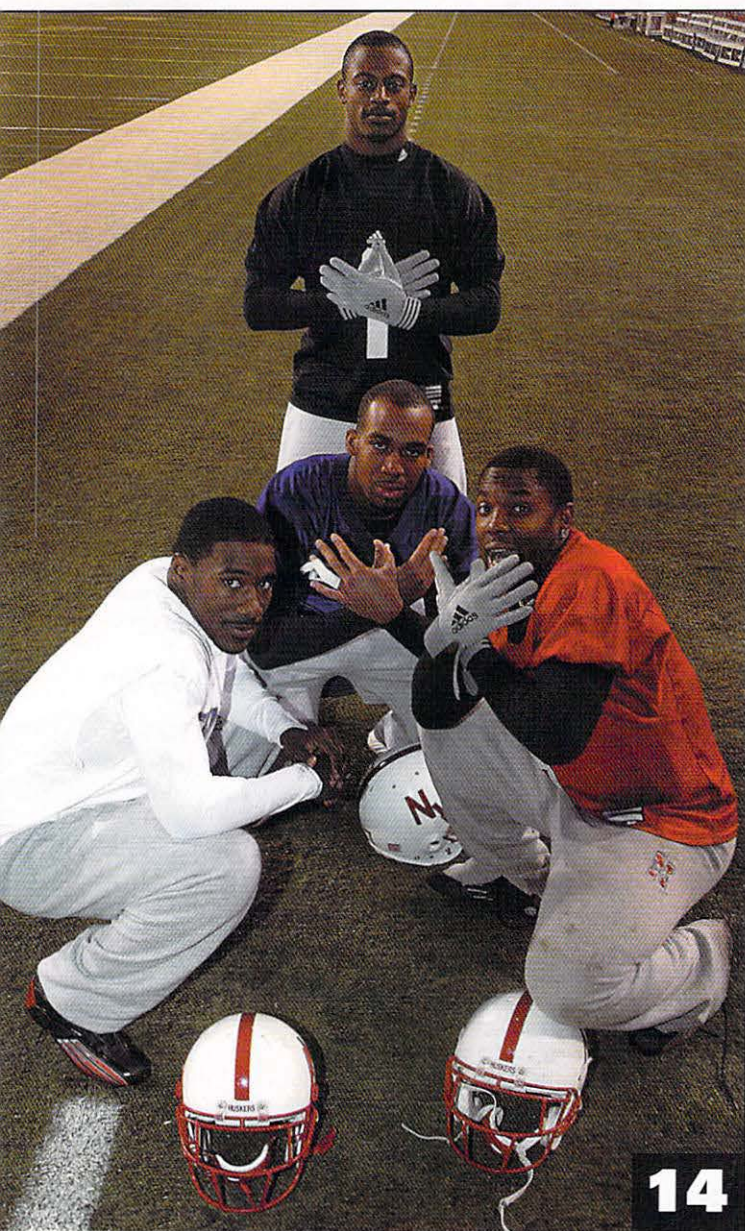
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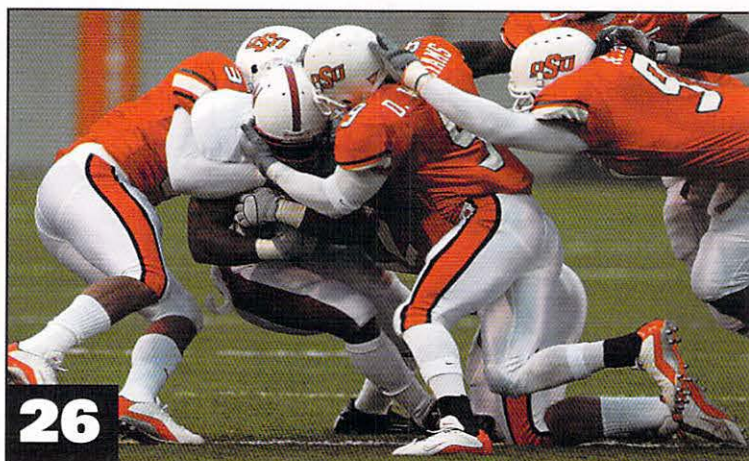
Two of them have brothers playing for this year's Omaha Central team, but their interest in the Eagles goes beyond family ties. *By Mike Babcock*

NEXT ISSUE

The Kansas review/Kansas State preview issue will be mailed Monday, Nov. 11. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

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26 Frustrating Season

After leading the Big 12 Conference in rushing as junior, Nebraska I-back Dahrran Diedrick expected to have a banner senior year. *By Mike Babcock*

Younger Huskers

Matt Herian's first pass reception at Nebraska was good for 33 yards and a touchdown against Utah State. His second went for 44 yards to set up a touchdown against Oklahoma State.

"Matt is performing very well for us," Coach Frank Solich said.

The tight end from Pierce, Neb., is among five true freshmen who are playing this season, of course, and he has made steady progress since being tossed into action in the second game.

"Matt has responded every time we've asked him to in terms of great routes, great hands," said Solich. "He has excellent speed. Will we, and are we attempting to utilize that more?"

The question was rhetorical. "The answer is yes," Solich said.

"Will he become a better blocker? Will he grow into a bigger and stronger tight end? There is no question. Can you use him from a tight end spot? We are. Can you get him out wide in sets? I think you can do that, and we'll attempt to do some of those things as we try to utilize his talents."

Nevertheless, Herian is still a work in progress, 6-foot-4 and 215 pounds of potential. And there have been times when he has made mistakes. It's the nature of youth and inexperience.

Solich's fifth team has relied on more young players this season than in the past.

"I think, probably, we are starting an inordinate number of freshman and young players in our system compared to the way it's been over the years," he said before the Texas A&M game.

"When you lose the quality of people in a program in the numbers that we lost, you will have some pains as you go through playing some of those younger players."

The depth chart released that week included six starters that were either freshmen or sophomores: offensive left tackle Richie Incognito, offensive left guard Mike Erickson, middle linebacker Barrett Ruud, left cornerback Fabian Washington, free safety Philip Bland and rover Daniel Bullocks.



True freshman tight end Matt Herian's reception against Oklahoma State was good for 44 yards and set up a touchdown.

Erickson, Ruud and Bland are sophomores. Incognito and Bullocks are redshirted freshmen. And Washington is a true freshman. In addition, true freshman David Horne shared No. 1 at I-back.

All have shown the maturity as well as the ability to compete at the major college level. "We feel good about those young players," Solich said. "They earned a right to be playing at this point."

Nebraska's inexperience isn't limited to the starters. In all, 31 of the 77 players listed on the depth chart on the offensive and defensive units were freshmen and sophomores.

And five more weren't included on the depth chart because of injuries.

Those numbers, untypical for the Cornhuskers, are "a sign that we had a very experienced football team, not only last year but the last couple of years," said Solich.

"If you look at many of those guys, guys that had been starters in the program for some time, and you look at the number of wins that those guys produced, there was a reason for that."

Solich cited Eric Crouch and Tracey Wistrom as examples. "They had some people built around them when they were early in their careers . . . that

helped make it work," he said.

Crouch, last season's Heisman Trophy winner, and Wistrom played on teams that had a combined record of 42-9 with one Big 12 championship during their four seasons.

They were surrounded by more veteran players when they were young. But scholarship limitations, among other factors, have changed the level of experience on the depth chart.

That's not an excuse for Nebraska's problems, however.

"We're not using anything as an excuse," Solich said. "We're not saying that inexperience is causing us to be where we're at. There are several factors. The bottom line is winning football games." And "you need to do that with mature players in the system and with young players in the system."

"We're just making too many mistakes. Those mistakes need to get corrected."

Inexperience can help to explain some of the mistakes, of course.

"But there are no excuses," he said.

The value of experience is reflected in the Cornhuskers' success in the kicking game, which Solich described as "probably as good as there is in the country."

That's because "we have guys that have been through the battles, that are very good athletes and don't (make) mistakes" on the kicking teams. Nebraska is "very mature on the kicking aspect of it."

"Everyone that handled the ball in the kicking game last year is handling the ball in the kicking game this year," Solich said, referring specifically to DeJuan Groce and Josh Davis. "We do not have experience on the defensive end of it, on the offensive end of it, and to a degree, that is showing."

As the young players on offense and defense mature, the mistakes should diminish. And if that happens, "we're going to give our players a chance to win games regardless of whether they're inexperienced, young, or seasoned. That's what we need to do," said Solich. ■

RALLY CAPS

Nebraska's rally from a 31-14 third-quarter deficit to upend Texas A&M was one of the top come-from-behind efforts in school history and Nebraska's best under Coach Frank Solich.

The previous largest deficit Nebraska had overcome to win under Solich was 10 points against Missouri on Oct. 24, 1998, in Lincoln. NU trailed 13-3 in the second quarter, but rallied for a 20-13 win.

The Huskers' rally from 17 points behind was their largest in any game since a 59-23 win at Kansas in 1991. NU trailed 17-0 in the first quarter of that game but used six Calvin Jones TD runs to pave the way to an easy victory.

TOURNAMENT TEAM?

The Nebraska men's basketball team won't be challenging for the Big 12 championship in Barry Collier's third season as coach. But the Cornhuskers could end up playing in the National Invitation Tournament, according to at least one preseason publication.

Athlon's college basketball annual predicts a 10th-place conference finish for Nebraska, but includes the Cornhuskers in the NIT field, along with Baylor, Colorado and Iowa State.

The magazine projects Kansas and Oklahoma as Final Four qualifiers, after finishing first and second, respectively, in the conference regular season, with Texas reaching the Elite Eight.

"Although both of his Nebraska teams have finished two games under .500, Collier has the Cornhuskers playing tougher and more competitively," the magazine says.

Even so, Nebraska will continue to experience "growing pains."

Athlon rates the Cornhusker recruiting class as the Big 12's fifth best.

The class includes three players from the state, Jason Dourisseau, Roy Enright and Wes Wilkinson. The last Cornhusker recruiting class to include at least three in-state players was in 1982.

Wilkinson "may be the best of the bunch" Athlon says.

Street & Smith's college basketball annual predicts an eighth-place finish for Nebraska in the conference but rates the Cornhusker recruiting class as the Big 12's seventh best.

"The Cornhuskers could be ready to take the next step," Street & Smith's says, noting that junior college transfer Nate Johnson, who averaged 26.2 points and set a national tournament record by averaging 30.5 points, has been compared to former Oklahoma State guard Maurice Baker.

Baker, also a junior college transfer, earned first-team all-conference recognition in his first season. ■



Nate Johnson

QUICK HITS

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?

LAST SEASON'S BEST

Even though Keyuo Craver was a fourth-round draft pick of the New Orleans Saints, DeJuan Groce was Nebraska's best cornerback last season, according to secondary coach George Darlington.

Groce, however, "didn't necessarily get a lot of press," Darlington said at the weekly meeting of the Extra Point Club on the Monday following the Oklahoma State game.

RECRUITS REMAIN RECEPTIVE

The Cornhuskers' problems haven't seemed to affect recruiting. "We have been received very well," Coach Frank Solich said. Perhaps, recruits "understand to a degree how things can work. There is no negative feedback coming from recruits and the parents of recruits."

"That is the encouraging thing about this business."

NUMBERS CRUNCHED MORE

Coach Connie Yori's first Husker women's basketball team has had only six scholarship players participating in preseason practices. The team has eight players on scholarship, half of the NCAA-allotted maximum of 15, but Keasha Cannon and Jamie Wendelin have been held out.

Cannon, the only regular returning starter from last season's 14-16 team and the Big 12 "Newcomer of the Year," has missed the practices because of a medical condition about which Yori won't comment, while Wendelin, a freshman, has been sidelined by an ankle injury, which might require surgery.

Cannon averaged 12.9 points and 8.4 rebounds last season.

Senior Shahidrah Roberts has been slowed in her recovery from ankle surgery, further aggravating the numbers crunch and forcing Yori to use walk-on players during practice. "If somebody is interested in walking on, we'll give them that opportunity," she told the Omaha World-Herald.

The Huskers are scheduled to play the first of two home exhibitions on Nov. 10, with their regular-season opener set for Nov. 22 against Grambling State at the Devaney Sports Center.

Cannon and Wendelin could be redshirted if they are unable to play.

GAIN, AND LOSS

Christina Houghttelling, a senior at Cambridge, Neb., High School, announced in late October that she would sign a letter of intent to play volleyball at Nebraska. That was good news for Husker Coach John Cook, but bad news for Yori, who had offered Houghttelling a basketball scholarship.

When the volleyball scholarship "came available and it was too good an offer to turn down," the 6-foot-2 Houghttelling told the Lincoln Journal Star.

Cook has oral commitments from three other scholarship recruits: setter Dani Busboom from Adams, Neb., middle blocker Dani Mancuso from Omaha and libero Amanda McCormick from Muncie, Ind. In addition, Emily Schroeder from Laurel-Concord, Neb., High has indicated she will walk on.

Coaches cannot comment on athletes until they have signed letters of intent.

The letter-of-intent signing period is in November.

WORLD CUP WINNER

Nebraska bowler Shannon Pluhowsky became the first American female to win the Bowling World Cup in 12 years, downing England's Nikki Harvey, 2-0, in the championship match in Riga, Latvia.

Pluhowsky, the top seed after qualifying, won the best-of-three championship by sweeping the first two games, 224-165 and 202-183. The 20-year-old from Phoenix, Ariz., advanced to the championship match earlier with a 2-1 victory over Pascale Moynot of France, the No. 3 seed, 204-176, 221-253, 225-211.

The reigning U.S. Amateur champion, Pluhowsky led the tournament from the opening day of qualifying and becomes only the fifth American female to win the Bowling World Cup.

At Nebraska, Pluhowsky is a two-time All-American and was the national collegiate female bowler of the year as a freshman, helping the Huskers to their second national title since the sport began in 1997.

TOP ASSISTANT

Nebraska softball assistant Lori Sippel has been named an AFLAC National Assistant Coach of the Year. Sippel, who was promoted to associate head coach in August, was one of 524 winners selected. ■

Different Style

Lord hasn't gotten the respect his numbers reflect in his first year as the starting quarterback



**Mike
BABCOCK**

BARRING INJURY, Jammal Lord will become the third player in Nebraska history to rush for 1,000 yards and pass for 1,000 yards in the same season. He might have done it by now.

Scott Frost did it in 1997, Eric Crouch last season. Obviously, the accomplishment is unique. Only a couple of dozen other NCAA Division I-A quarterbacks have ever done it.

Statistically speaking, Lord has more than met expectations during what amounts to his rookie season directing the Cornhusker offense. But he hasn't gotten the respect his numbers reflect.

Following Nebraska's 24-21 loss at Oklahoma State, a writer for a Dallas newspaper offered the opinion that Lord "isn't near the runner Crouch was and is even less of a passer."

A comparison of Lord, a first-year starter, and Crouch, a Heisman Trophy winner as a fifth-year senior, is loaded in Crouch's favor. No one would suggest otherwise.

Athletically, however, Lord isn't as far from Crouch as the writer claims.

Lord doesn't have Crouch's speed. But few quarterbacks do. That's what set Crouch apart. Quarterback was simply a label. He was the Cornhuskers' best running back.

Even so, Lord is "near the runner" that Crouch was. He just has a different style.

He won't run 95 yards for a touchdown, as Crouch did against Missouri. But he has the size and strength to break tackles, and the instinct to get yards where there seem to be none.

As for passing, with a season's worth of experience, Lord could be better than Crouch, who completed less than 50 percent of his passes in two of his first three seasons.

Lord has been stereotyped by his high school experience — he threw only 41 passes during his senior season. But he has a strong arm and, at times, has looked like a "big-time thrower."

Coach Frank Solich used those words last spring to describe his potential, and there have been glimpses this season, including a couple of play-action passes to tight end Matt Herian.

Lord hasn't always gotten the ball to open receivers. But as he becomes more comfortable with the offense, and patient enough to make the right reads, his passing will improve.

Arm strength can't be coached. Decision-making can.

Although statistics can be misleading, they certainly don't support the claim that Lord "isn't near the runner Crouch was and is even less of a passer."

Through nine games, Lord had rushed for 921 yards and

seven touchdowns on 156 carries. In the first nine games last season, Crouch rushed for 798 yards and nine touchdowns on 149 carries.

Advantage, Lord.

Through nine games, Lord had completed 62-of-122 passes (50.8 percent) for 859 yards and six touchdowns with six interceptions. In the first nine games last season, Crouch completed 75-of-143 passes (52.4) for 1,088 yards and seven touchdowns with six interceptions.

Advantage, Crouch.

Their numbers are similar, without taking into account that Crouch was a senior, who had started 26 games his first three seasons, and that he was playing behind a much more experienced line.

Lord's numbers would be better if compared to those in any of Crouch's first three seasons, and they would be better if compared to Frost's in his first season as a starter, 1996.

In 12 games, Frost rushed for 438 yards and nine touchdowns on 126 carries and completed 104-of-200 passes (52 percent) for 13 touchdowns with only three interceptions.

Lord is in much the same situation as Frost, who had to overcome not only the problems of succeeding Tommie Frazier but also of having accepted Stanford's scholarship offer over Nebraska's out of Wood River High School and then transferring back after two seasons. Some fans weren't willing to forgive him until he directed the Cornhuskers' national championship run in 1997.

Team success can change the estimation of a quarterback's ability.

In the second game of the 1997 season, against Central Florida, Frost's return to the field, after back-up Frankie London led a touchdown drive, was greeted with a smattering of boos.

Lord hasn't had to deal with that. But he has had to shoulder much of the blame for Nebraska's problems this season. And that blame has been magnified by comparisons to Crouch.

They are different, of course, as any two people would be.

Those differences are magnified by personality and background. Lord isn't comfortable around reporters, for example, while Crouch was, to an extraordinary degree. But to suggest that Lord's abilities are far inferior to Crouch's is unfair, and more to the point, inaccurate.

Crouch's greatness was based on more than running and passing. It depended on decision-making and consistency, toughness and determination, intangibles that are developed over time.

If Lord can survive his first season as a starter with his confidence intact, he could very well be an All-Big 12 candidate next season. He has that kind of ability. ■



Jammal Lord has looked like a "big-time thrower" at times, his coach says.

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Making It Work

Addition of true freshman I-back Horne kick-starts Nebraska's running game



Terry DOUGLASS

EVEN THE WRITER of the letter to the Dallas Morning News' sports forum had to get a chuckle at the timing of his views being published. In this particular edition, Craig from Dallas bemoaned the fact that his Nebraska Cornhuskers had fallen from national prominence and wondered if Coach Frank Solich would "change from the option-based offense that good defenses have been shutting down for three years?"

The irony of the comments was brought to light on the front page of the college football section from the same day's edition. Using that tired old option-based attack, Craig's Cornhuskers had just rolled up 497 total yards, including 381 yards rushing, in a 38-31 victory at Texas A&M.

Entering the contest, the Aggies' famed Wrecking Crew defense was ranked fifth nationally against the run, allowing just 76.9 yards per game. Earlier this season, A&M had held Virginia Tech's "untouchable" tandem of Lee Suggs and Kevin Jones to less than 100 yards combined.

The Aggies had gone 19 straight games without allowing a 100-yard rusher. But somehow, Nebraska's outdated ground-based attack managed to produce two 100-yard rushers in quarterback Jammal Lord and I-back David Horne. It could've had a third, but I-back Dahrran Diedrick was charged with a 16-yard loss on a fumbled pitch, leaving him with 85 yards.

While some might have thought the Huskers would be running up against a brick wall trying to run the ball against A&M, Solich and his team believed otherwise.

"Against these guys, on the surface, you say you can't run it at them," Solich said. "But we felt that we needed to establish that. We felt we needed to get something going on that end of it, and we felt we were going to have our chances. We just needed to make it work."

Since being held to 81 yards rushing in a 36-14 loss at Iowa State on Sept. 28, it would seem that Solich and the Huskers are more determined than ever to make the running game work. Despite analysts who repeatedly say that the days of Nebraska being able to line up and run the football at people are over, Solich contends that if you're going to be a good offense, you'd better do at least one thing really well.

For Nebraska, that thing is running the football. After being bottled up by the Cyclones, the Huskers bounced back to average 352 rushing yards in their next four games. Through nine games, NU led the Big 12 and was fourth nationally in rushing, averaging 279.1 yards per game.

It's no secret that Nebraska's ability to re-establish itself as a great running team has coincided with David Horne's addition to the lineup. In his first four games since shedding his redshirt, the true freshman from Omaha Central had 422 rushing yards and already ranked seventh on NU's single-season freshman rushing list.

"David has really taken to where he fits into this offense very, very well," Solich said. "He's a bright young man, and he picks up football very, very quickly."

Solich said Horne's immediate impact has been truly impressive to everyone.

"Once we took him out of the redshirt, he has really made it work," Solich said. "He's given us a boost, and he's made some plays out of things where a lot of backs and a lot of teams aren't able to get plays made."

"When you have a back like that, it gives you some added punch. It gives everybody a little lift, and lets everybody know that you have an offense that can score from far out or keep drives alive. He's got great ability to make people miss one on one and then has good speed."

Horne's teammates have also been impressed.

"David Horne is the man back in that backfield," Lord said. "He runs hard between the tackles and has got the speed to bounce outside and take it 50 or 60 yards."

Even Horne admits he's been a little surprised. Although he was initially reluctant to give up his redshirt season, Horne said he was willing to do whatever it took to help the team.

"I never had an idea I'd have this much impact on the team," Horne said. "I think overall, I've made a good impact. I've made a few big plays for our offense that have led to scores, and overall, I think I have done a pretty good job."

Horne's emergence has added a dimension at I-back that the Huskers have been searching for desperately since the days of Ahman Green. Not only is he adept at picking his holes inside, but he has the speed to get to the outside. Even when it looks like there's nowhere to run, Horne always seems to find 3 or 4 yards.

"I take it upon myself to make big plays," Horne said. "That's the kind of person that I am. I'm a big-play guy . . . and I think the team looks for it because I put a lot of pressure on myself to make big plays for us."

The fact that Nebraska is sticking with the run shouldn't come as a huge surprise to anyone. The Huskers have led the nation in rushing offense 13 times since 1980, including the past two seasons. With that in mind, it's probably safe to say the Huskers won't go changing their stripes anytime soon.

So while several other successful programs have gravitated more toward the passing game, Nebraska's attack remains basically unchanged. Solich, who was once asked if the Huskers' offense is a dinosaur in college football today, has been around the game long enough to know that these things go in cycles.

"I don't think that you'll find that the running game will become obsolete," Solich said. "We'll try to make sure that it doesn't."

Sorry, Craig. I guess that means the answer is no. ■



David Horne rushed for 422 yards in his first four games.

Added Beef

265-pound transfer Drevo should provide big boost to Nebraska's inside game



Curt McKEEVER

IF ANDREW DREVO needs a free trip to the buffet table, John Turek has got him covered. Anything to keep his new 265-pound teammate fat (OK, maybe beefed up would be more appropriate) and happy.

"I got beat up quite a bit during the season," said Turek, who still showed that he's a key building block in Barry Collier's men's basketball program by establishing the school freshman record for rebounds (162) and tying the freshman mark for blocked shots (39).

Not that the 6-foot-9 product of Council Bluffs, Iowa — who became the first freshman in NU history to lead the Huskers in rebounding (6.2 per game) — minds a scrap. As Turek proudly points out, "I can't picture myself not going hard."

It's just that often in Big 12 games last season he felt smothered by an overload of opposing big bodies.

With the 6-8 Drevo having arrived after two productive seasons at Morningside College, Turek can count on wearing fewer bruises this season.

"I probably won't be the guy guarding the biggest guy down the floor all the time now," he said.

Yeah, he was smiling.

"That'll definitely help having a guy who's 265 pounds," Turek said.

It wasn't long ago that Drevo would never have thought he'd wind up going to battle with Turek. Although he led Lincoln Christian to a state championship his senior season, Drevo headed to the NCAA Division II school in Sioux City, Iowa. Drevo had escaped the eyes of most Division I coaches because he missed most of his junior season with a stress fracture in his back.

But following two all-conference seasons at Morningside, Drevo was looking elsewhere, because the school decided to drop its athletic programs to NAIA.

At one point, former Husker Andy Markowski, then an assistant coach at South Dakota checked to see if Drevo was interested in transferring there. Drevo said no thanks, but Markowski still followed with a call to Nebraska.

"They got hold of me first, just out of the blue (with) Coach (Reggie) Rankin," Drevo said.

The Huskers told Drevo he would have to walk on, but that he'd have a good chance to be placed on scholarship his senior season. Drevo, whose father played freshman ball for the Huskers and then suffered a knee injury, dove headfirst for the opportunity.

"I knew a little bit about Coach Collier, just because I read the Lincoln paper on the Internet every day," Drevo said. "I followed the whole thing when he came in and kind of followed the team. The few games I watched on the TV, I was pretty impressed with how composed he was. I felt like he

was the right guy for the job, the right person to turn it around."

Drevo sat out of games last season to meet NCAA transfer guidelines. But less than a week into practice, Collier was already starting to feel like the Huskers had a ringer who could have immediate impact in his developing program.

For starters, he should provide some much-needed interior strength at the defensive end of the floor. As a sophomore, Drevo led Morningside in rebounding (8 per game) and blocked shots.

"The whole goal is for our interior defense to improve," Collier said. But as a sophomore, Drevo also set a school record by hitting 49 percent of his three-point shots, while averaging 14 points per contest.

"It's been so long since I played in a game," said Drevo, trying to define what makes his game click. "I'd like to think I'm not one-dimensional. I can exploit different weaknesses in a defense. I'm not just a shooter. I'm not just a post player."

"I know (Collier is) confident in my abilities, and I'm just going to go out and play as hard as I can and see where I fit in."

Funny, but Turek took the same approach last season, working his way back from a severe pre-season ankle sprain to eventually crack the starting lineup just before the Huskers reached the conference portion of their schedule.

"I just worked hard every day and tried to find my role on the team," Turek said. "I was really happy with my season. I was so happy to start and contribute with rebounding and blocking shots. But for an inside guy, I didn't shoot like I should."

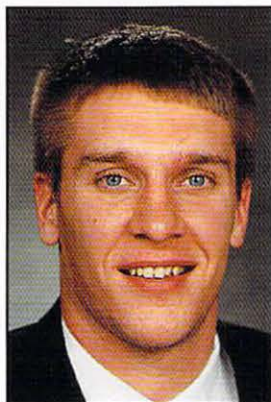
His recognizing that must bring a smile to Collier's face. It means Turek is intent on proving he's much better than his 39.1 percent accuracy from the field or 38 percent from the free throw line.

Sure enough, Turek — who fought a hitch in his shot early last year, and also played the entire season with his shooting wrist heavily taped to protect a muscle injury — claims he's feeling a lot more confident about his offense. He remembers the 20-point outing in NU's regular-season finale at Kansas State and aims to produce like that on a more consistent basis.

"I'm stepping out and taking a lot more jumpers," Turek said. "I like being more versatile (than other front-line players), and if I can make guys step out on me, maybe I can use my quickness to drive around them."

And if he gets the double-team treatment? Well, he'll know where to look first for help in clearing a path.

That would be his new 265-pound friend, who, if Turek has anything to do about it, will keep growing. ■



As a sophomore, Andrew Drevo averaged 14 points and 8 rebounds.

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.

Not Just 1 Game

Klem would rather people remember him for something besides blocking against OU standout

John Klem has videotape of Nebraska's 20-10 victory against Oklahoma in 2001. An uncle sent it to him. But Klem hasn't sat down and watched it from beginning to end.

The truth is, he would rather that people remembered him for something besides his downfield blocking against the Sooners' All-America safety Roy Williams in that game.

Every interview he does quickly turns to the Williams match-up.

"I try to play well enough that the game they're talking about is the one I just played instead of one I played a year ago," said Klem. "But I guess that's the way it goes."

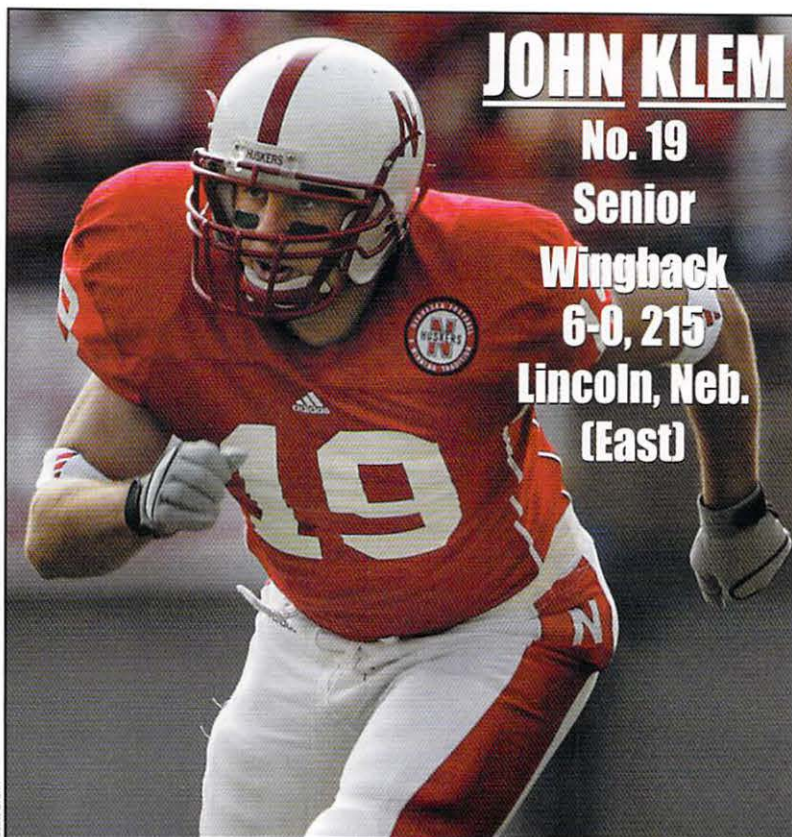
It goes that way because reporters look for obvious angles, and there aren't many better than a walk-on wide receiver with one career pass reception getting the best of an All-American.

Though Klem was in for only 10 or so plays that afternoon, most had an impact on the outcome. His performance was something he can show his children someday, "point to Roy Williams playing in the NFL and say you knocked him around a couple of times," Klem said with a smile.

There has been more to his career than that, of course. But when you've earned your place on the team with tenacious, downfield blocking, anonymity is your constant companion.

He's been on the field for more than 30 downs in games and still people who watched on television have asked afterward if he played at all. "The camera doesn't always follow you," he said.

During the Oklahoma game, commentator Brent Musberger noted that Klem was on the field for one reason,



JOHN KLEM

No. 19

Senior

Wingback

6-0, 215

Lincoln, Neb.

(East)

and one reason only, to take Williams out of the play. "Geez, that's not the only reason. It's kind of type-casting," Klem said, smiling again. "But if I do a good job, that's OK."

"I'm not a big guy on trying to get recognition."

He also isn't "a keepsake guy," which is good considering the photographs he took during a trip to England and Wales as a member of a select soccer team when he was 14-years-old.

He'll never know the quality of his photography because he exposed the roll of film with "all my best pictures" when he tried to remove it so he could reload the camera and take some more.

"I had never operated a camera," he said.

Under the circumstances, there's no reason to doubt that.

He didn't need photographs to

remind him of the experience. But his mom and his girlfriend at the time — now his fiancée — certainly would have enjoyed looking at them.

Soccer was Klem's sport until the ninth grade. He played youth-league football when he was a fifth-grader, but the demands of soccer were such he didn't have time for football after that.

At East High in Lincoln, he played both, helping to lead the Spartans to two state championships in soccer as well as playing safety, defensive end and wide receiver on the football team.

He and Cornhusker teammate Will Dabbert both began as tight ends and defensive ends in the ninth grade. But Dabbert "kept getting bigger and bigger, and I stayed the same size," said Klem.

He also was a soccer-style place-kicker in the ninth and 10th grade,

which is why he's done some kicking in practice since back-up Sandro DeAngelis was sidelined.

"I'd hate to be called a kicker, but if it helps the team, I'll do it," Klem said.

A willingness to help the team has enabled him to get on the field and make a significant contribution in a way that few people recognize. Ironically, he's less anonymous on radio broadcasts because "they always say who's split out left and right," he said.

But "it's still not a big deal whether people know I played or not."

Williams certainly knew when he was on the field. He blocked the Sooner safety on two plays that pre-

ceded and set up the dramatic touchdown pass from Mike Stuntz to Eric Crouch.

Williams wasn't a trash talker, according to Klem.

"He didn't say a word. Usually, a defensive back will say something because they don't like getting cut or blocked all the way to the ground. They're just not used to it," said Klem.

Williams "made a couple of groans after being hit a couple of times."

But he never said anything, "which made me respect him even more," Klem said.

That respect will make watching the videotape even more special, someday. ■



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Central C

Interest in their high school goes beyond family ties for NU's Omaha Central alums

By Mike Babcock

DeAntae Grixby, David Horne and Mark LeFlore sat together in the movie theater on the night before the Utah State game. Lornell McPherson sat nearby.

Titus Adams sat in a row in front of the four and would have to endure some good-natured ribbing from his Nebraska teammates before the evening was through.

Grixby, Horne, LeFlore and McPherson are graduates of Omaha Central High School, while Adams is a graduate of Central rival Creighton Prep. And Central would defeat Prep that night.

The game was of more interest than the movie, according to Grixby, who can't recall what it was. He does remember that somebody used a cell phone to call Omaha and check on the score of the Central-Prep game, after somebody else tried unsuccessfully to find a broadcast on a transistor radio.

"That's just how we are," said Grixby. "We've got to know how they're doing."

Grixby's brother Cortney plays for Central, as does LeFlore's brother Chris. But their interest in the Eagles goes beyond family ties. "It's about pride," Grixby said.

"You put that silver jersey on, it's about pride that goes all the way back to growing up. It's more than just going to a high school. It's like a

fraternity. You're going to be there for life."

Most high schools elicit loyalty from their graduates, but Central has a special attraction, according to LeFlore. It's a "high-profile school," he said, with "great tradition."

Nobody understands that better than Grixby, Horne and McPherson, who all played running back at Central, which has come to consider itself "I-back High," said Grixby.

If you're a running back there, "you're expected to be the man," he said.

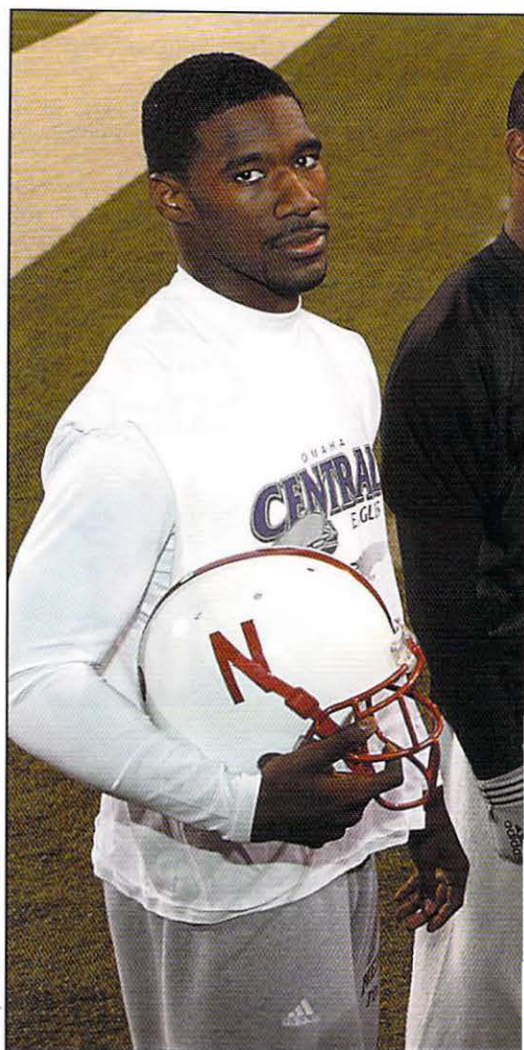
The basis of Central's claim as "I-back High" is rooted in the pro football Hall of Fame career of Gale Sayers, whose departure to the University of Kansas was among the many reasons Bill Jennings' tenure as head football coach at Nebraska didn't extend beyond the 1961 season.

The majority of those who followed Sayers, however, have played for the Cornhuskers, among them Joe Orduna, Keith Jones, Leodis Flowers, Calvin Jones and Ahman Green.

All of them rank among the top 26 in career rushing at Nebraska, lining up behind Green, who is second to Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier, with 3,880 yards and 42 touchdowns.

Green set the contemporary standard by which Central running backs are measured. So when Horne has been compared to Green this season, "that's real flattering," Horne said.

"You'll never understand how



flattering that is to me."

Horne should be used to such comparisons by now, after rushing for 1,467 yards and scoring 22 touchdowns last season at Central. "You have a big game, you're always compared to them," he said of Green and the other Eagles running backs. "You walk through the halls and you see their pictures on the walls. You can see all their accomplishments. So you just want to live up to that."

Grixby, who is playing fullback but would like to return to I-back in the spring, felt the same pressure.

onnection



Omaha Central's representatives on the 2002 Nebraska squad are (from left) freshman I-back David Horne, sophomore cornerback Lornell McPherson, freshman split end Mark LeFlore and junior fullback DeAntae Grixby.

"When I first got to Central, it was like a shrine, all the pictures of the great backs," he said.

"You look at it and you're like, 'Man, how can I get to that?'"

Grixby got there by following Green's lead. Even though he was a freshman when Green was a senior, "we were real close," said Grixby, who rushed for 2,896 yards and 25 touchdowns during his high school career. "He helped me out so much. He was never big-headed."

McPherson played running back as a senior at Central, teaming with

JaMaine Billups, whom Iowa State recruited as a running back but moved to the secondary earlier this season.

Billups is "glad he's on the field," McPherson said. But he wanted to stay at running back.

McPherson did not. The Cornhusker sophomore was recruited as a defensive back.

LeFlore played wide receiver at Central, somewhat of an anomaly, he said. "They usually just pitch to the I-back. They've had lots of great I-backs. They just run, pound, pound,

pound.

"Then I come around and catch some passes."

He had a combined 83 receptions for 1,607 yards and 19 touchdowns in his final two seasons. "I'm not saying Central has evolved, really, but I think I'm like a pioneer," LeFlore said.

His brother, a senior, plays receiver and defensive back and is attracting recruiting interest from Nebraska and several other schools. The Cornhuskers also are interested in Grixby's brother, a sophomore who plays basketball as well as quarterback and defensive back on the football team.

"Actually, he's getting a better look in basketball than football," said DeAntae. "He's way different than me, way more athletic. He's just a natural. I can't do half the stuff he does."

The Central pipeline continues to flow toward Nebraska. Eagles senior Brandon Teamer, a 6-foot-5, 265-pound lineman, gave the Cornhuskers an oral commitment in late June.

Coach Joe McMenamin's program has been modeled on Nebraska's, according to LeFlore. "I guess the Central coaches and the Nebraska coaches talk a lot," he said. "I really don't know how that started, but players that went to Central go here because they know a lot of people and it's close to home."

"It's a smooth transition. It's like going to the same school, just at a higher level."

The similarities have helped Horne learn the Cornhusker offense.

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"When I came in, I knew pretty much what was going on, so that's a little advantage that I had," he said.

There's added pressure following backs such as Green at Central and then at Nebraska. "You don't want to be the one where people say, 'He didn't produce like the other ones,'" said Horne.

But there's also an element of pride, which motivates him and the others to maintain close contact with McMenamin and the Eagles. "I check up on them every once in a while," Horne said. "My life is a little busy now, but I check up on them, making sure they're doing all right."

After the season, "I plan on going back to say hi and thank the coaches."

Whenever Central wins, Horne and the others give teammates from that school a hard time — like the night before the Utah State game, when the Eagles defeated Prep. "We talk junk to each other; it's a little competition from back in the day," said Horne. "It's just a Nebraska thing." ■

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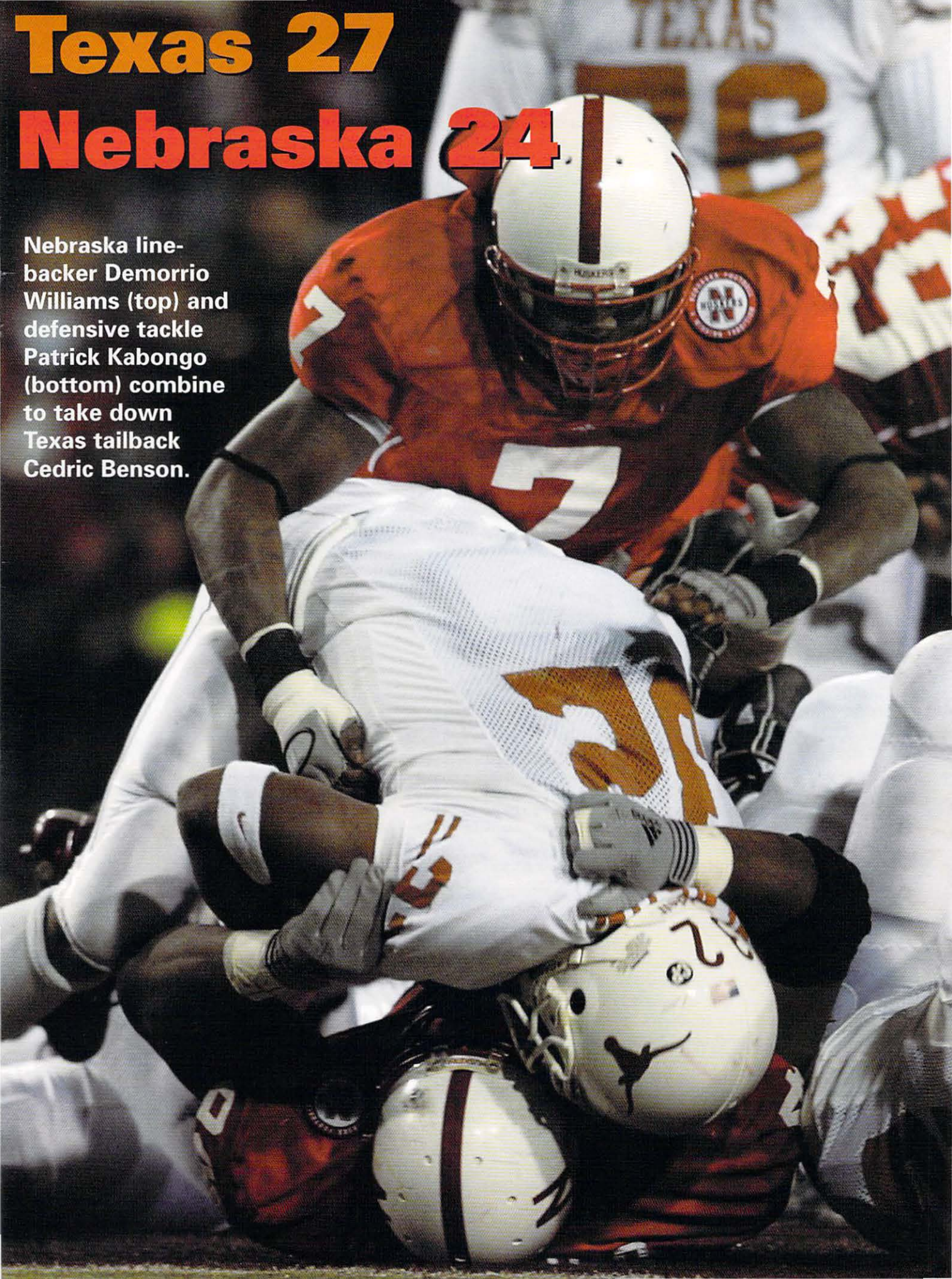


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Texas 27

Nebraska 24

Nebraska line-backer Demorrio Williams (top) and defensive tackle Patrick Kabongo (bottom) combine to take down Texas tailback Cedric Benson.



NU Passes 0

No second chance after Longhorn interception

By MIKE BABCOCK

To attempt a field goal, or not. The decision was "very soul-searching," Frank Solich said. And if he were to do it over, he would have sent in Josh Brown for the kick of about 33 yards.

But there was no second chance, of course, no opportunity to re-think the call, which I-back Dahrran Diedrick considered the right one anyway. "That's what you're supposed to do," he said.

"You can't just go for a tie. You're supposed to go for a win."

Solich did, with a flag pass to the sideline in the northeast corner, the idea being if the pass was incomplete, the clock would stop — Nebraska had no timeouts with 16 seconds remaining when the play began — and Brown would still have an opportunity to tie the game and force overtime.

But Jammal Lord's pass came down in the hands of Texas cornerback Nathan Vasher, who managed to get a foot down before landing out of bounds at the Longhorn 1-yard line.

Vasher's second interception of the game preserved a 27-24 Texas victory and ended Nebraska's nation-leading 26-game home winning streak. The Cornhuskers' last loss at Memorial Stadium also was against Texas, on Oct. 31, 1988. That loss snapped a 47-game home-winning streak.



DeJuan Groce (eluding punter Brian Bradford above) returned a punt 44 yards to the Texas 16 in the final minute to give the Huskers a chance to win the game or send it to overtime. Quarterback Jammal Lord (right) kept Nebraska in the game by rushing for a school (quarterback) record 234 yards.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

"This was against all odds," said Texas Coach Mack Brown. "Everybody in the state of Nebraska has been waiting for this game for three or four years, just so they could beat us."

That Nebraska didn't get the job done wasn't for lack of effort against the nation's No. 7-ranked team. The Cornhuskers "played with a lot of heart, a lot of drive," Solich said.

Nebraska battled back from a pair of 10-point deficits in the fourth quarter, responding to Longhorn touchdown drives of 97 and 81 yards, to set the stage for the final drama.

After Texas went ahead 20-10 with 49 seconds left in the third quarter,

Lord teamed with tight end Matt Herian on a 60-yard touchdown pass to cut the lead to 20-17 with 14:31 remaining.

And after the Longhorns took a 27-17 lead with 3:24 remaining, Lord brought Nebraska back once more, directing a four-play, 60-yard drive that included a 20-yard run by Josh Davis, a 7-yard pass to Davis and a pair of pass interference penalties. Diedrick capped the drive from 2 yards out.

With 2:34 left, the Cornhuskers again were down by only three.

Solich decided against an on-side kick, leaving it to the defense to get the ball back. It forced a Texas punt,

on Field Goal



which DeJuan Groce returned 44 yards to the Longhorn 16 with 34 seconds remaining. "When they gave me an opportunity to do it, I took advantage of it," Groce said of his only return.

On first down, Lord was tackled for no gain. He downed the ball to stop the clock with 16 seconds, setting up the fatal third-down pass, which was intended for Mark LeFlore.

The Longhorns had been covering

the route "man-to-man, basically," said Lord. But Vasher "peeled back" to help strong safety Cedric Griffin, and "I didn't see him until the last minute."

Lord tried to shoulder the blame. "When the team needed me the most, I didn't come through for them," he said. But there were few, if any, that would agree with him.

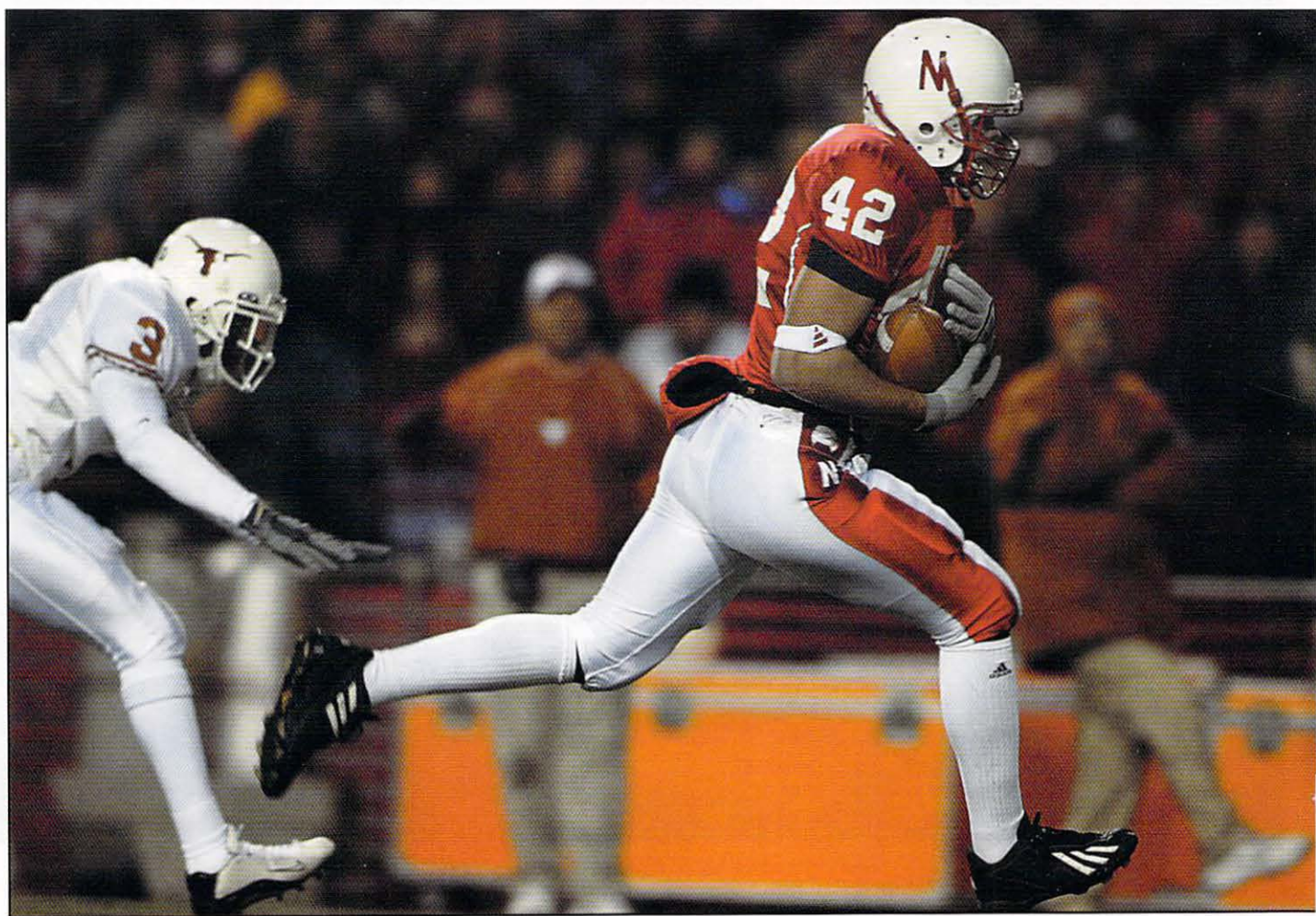
He rushed for 234 yards, a school record for a quarterback, and averaged 10 yards per carry.

"Jammal had just a tremendous day in terms of rushing the ball," Solich said.

Lord also refused credit for that, however. "I wasn't carrying the offense," he said. "It wasn't me. It was the offensive line doing the job. There were holes all day because of those guys."

"It was up to me to hit the holes fast."

Quarterbacks coach Turner Gill, who accompanied Lord to the post-



Freshman tight end Matt Herian again showed his big-play ability, with a 60-yard touchdown catch early in the fourth quarter.

game interview, said Nebraska was "just trying to take what they gave us . . . Jammal took what they gave him."

In a manner of speaking he did. But Lord had to earn every yard he got.

Lord and his teammates "played with a lot of heart," said Gill. "We're

proud of them.

"You can't control the outcome. But you can control the effort."

What the Cornhuskers couldn't control was the passing of Texas quarterback Chris Simms, to wide receiver Roy Williams in particular. Simms completed 29-of-47 passes for a school record 419 yards and two

touchdowns, both to Williams, who caught 13 passes for 161 yards.

Williams' 13 receptions also were a school record.

"There's probably nobody in the country that can stop that guy one-on-one," Nebraska middle linebacker Barrett Ruud said of Williams. "He's a freak of nature."



The Nebraska defense sacked Texas quarterback Chris Simms three times, once by Barrett Ruud (38) and Patrick Kabongo (94) for a 9-yard loss (above left). But the Longhorn senior was unflappable and finished with a school record 419 yards passing. Split end Roy Williams (making a catch in front of NU's DeJuan Groce, above right) had 13 of the catches for 161 yards.

Also, Longhorn fullback Ivan Williams caught six passes for 111 yards.

The Texas aerial show, before a record crowd of 78,268, nearly ended in frustration, however.

Even though Josh Brown kicked a 48-yard field goal to put Nebraska on the scoreboard first, Solich decided on one more attempt at a victory before letting him try for a tie.

"We were not automatic on a couple of previous field goals," Solich said. With 1:02 remaining in the first half, Brown couldn't get off a 48-yard field goal attempt because of a bad center snap, and on the final play of the half, Rod Babers blocked Brown's 49-yard field goal attempt.

"We did not look very smooth in that area," said Solich, who elected to go for first downs on fourth-and-1 situations within field goal range twice in the first half — both were unsuccessful.

"I would have really liked the opportunity," Josh Brown said of the tying field goal. "But that was Coach's decision, and we're backing him. We were trying to ride the momentum."

That momentum almost carried the Cornhuskers to victory. Almost, but not quite. ■

4TH & 1 INCHES

Notes And Quotes From The Texas Game

LORD TOPS

In addition to being a school record for a quarterback, Jammal Lord's 234 rushing yards brought his season's total to a quarterback school-record 1,155. Only two other Cornhusker quarterbacks have rushed for 1,000 yards in a season, Scott Frost (1,095) and Eric Crouch (1,115).

Lord broke his own quarterback rushing record, 218 yards against McNeese State.

Lord's 332 yards of total offense increased his season total to 2,112, a school record for a junior. Crouch previously held that record, too, 2,072 total yards in the 2000 season.

ALL BIG PLAYS

True freshman tight end Matt Herian caught a 60-yard touchdown pass from Lord to cut the deficit to 20-17 with 14:31 remaining in the game. The reception was Herian's third of the season, and his second for a touchdown. His other receptions have produced gains of 33 and 44 yards.

"I was just doing what I had to do," he said. "Coach put me in for that situation, and that is my job. It kept us in the ball game, and that was what we needed at that point."

"Matt's a great guy," said Lord. "He's a fast guy with great hands. I just put it in a spot where he could get it and run and do what he had to do, and he scored."

PICKING UP THE PACE

Nebraska rushed for 320 yards against Texas. The Cornhuskers have averaged 345.8 rushing yards in their last five games, after being limited to a season-low 81 against Iowa State.

They went into the Texas game ranked fourth nationally and first in the Big 12 in rushing.

STILL NO KELSAY

Senior rush end Chris Kelsay again was among the missing because of a hamstring injury. The injury occurred early in the McNeese State game. Rover Lannie Hopkins also was held out of the game after suffering a concussion in the Texas A&M game.

HORNE LIMITED

True freshman I-back David Horne saw only limited action against the Longhorns, carrying just seven times for a net of 12 yards. Horne went into the game averaging more than 100 yards and 20 carries.

FOURTH BEST

Chris Simms' 419 passing yards were the fourth-most ever against Nebraska. Louisiana Tech's Tim Rattay tops the list, with 590 yards in 1998. Kansas State's Chad May had 489 yards in 1993. And Missouri's Jeff Handy passed for 424 yards in 1992.

Simms' passing yardage was a Texas school record. Major Applewhite held the previous record of 408 yards against Oklahoma State in 1998. Applewhite passed for 478 yards in the 2001 Holiday Bowl, but bowl game statistics haven't counted for records until this season.

"Anybody who has ever questioned Chris Simms better go hide tonight," Longhorns Coach Mack Brown said. "He was the best football player in the country tonight."

At one point, Simms suffered a dislocated finger, ran off, got the finger popped back into place and returned without missing a play. "He is tough as nails," said Brown.

ROAD WARRIORS

The road victory was the Longhorns' 12th in a row, not counting games played at neutral sites.

DEPTH CHART SWITCH

Redshirted freshman Josh Bullocks moved up to the top spot at free safety on the pre-Texas depth chart, with sophomore Philip Bland moving to No. 1 at rover. Bland had been sharing the No. 1 position at rover with Daniel Bullocks, Josh's twin brother. Bland also is No. 2 at free safety.

Senior Aaron Terpening was listed second on the depth chart at rover.

Josh Bullocks intercepted a Chris Simms pass late in the first half, to give Nebraska the ball at its own 46-yard line. Nebraska couldn't capitalize, however, as Josh Brown's field goal attempt was blocked. ■

2002 Schedule

| | | | |
|----|----------|---|-----|
| 1 | Aug. 24 | Arizona State (7-3), W 48-10 | 1-0 |
| 2 | Aug. 31 | Troy State (3-7), W 31-16 | 2-0 |
| 3 | Sept. 7 | Utah State (2-6), W 44-13 | 3-0 |
| 4 | Sept. 14 | @ Penn State (6-3), L 40-7 | 3-1 |
| 5 | Sept. 28 | @ Iowa State (7-3), L 36-14 | 3-2 |
| 6 | Oct. 5 | McNeese St. (7-1), W 38-14 | 4-2 |
| 7 | Oct. 12 | Missouri (4-5), W 24-13 | 5-2 |
| 8 | Oct. 19 | @ Oklahoma St. (4-4), L 24-21 | 5-3 |
| 9 | Oct. 26 | @ Texas A&M (5-4), W 38-31 | 6-3 |
| 10 | Nov. 2 | Texas (8-1), L 27-24 | 6-4 |
| 11 | Nov. 9 | Kansas (2-8), 12:30 p.m. | |
| 12 | Nov. 16 | @ Kansas State (7-2), TBA | |
| 13 | Nov. 29 | Colorado (6-3), 2:30 p.m., ABC | |
| | Dec. 7 | Big 12 Championship at Houston, Texas, 7 p.m., ABC | |

Big 12 at a Glance

| | North | | All | |
|--------------|-------|---|-----|---|
| | Conf. | | | |
| Colorado | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| Iowa State | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| Kansas State | 3 | 2 | 7 | 2 |
| Nebraska | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| Missouri | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Kansas | 0 | 6 | 2 | 8 |

| | South | | All | |
|----------------|-------|---|-----|---|
| | Conf. | | | |
| Oklahoma | 4 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Texas | 4 | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| Texas Tech | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| Oklahoma State | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Texas A&M | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| Baylor | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 |

Saturday, Nov. 2

Texas 27, Nebraska 24
Iowa State 42, Missouri 35
Kansas State 64, Kansas 0
Oklahoma 27, Colorado 11
Oklahoma State 28, Texas A&M 23
Texas Tech 62, Baylor 11

Saturday, Nov. 9

Kansas at Nebraska
Iowa State at Kansas State
Colorado at Missouri
Baylor at Texas
Oklahoma at Texas A&M
Oklahoma State at Texas Tech

Upcoming Opponents' Schedules

Kansas (2-8)

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| Aug. 31 | @ Iowa State, L 45-3 |
| Sept. 7 | @ UNLV, L 31-20 |
| Sept. 14 | SW Missouri St., W 44-24 |
| Sept. 21 | Bowling Green, L 39-16 |
| Sept. 28 | @ Tulsa, W 43-33 |
| Oct. 5 | @ Baylor, L 35-32 |
| Oct. 12 | Colorado, L 53-29 |
| Oct. 19 | Texas A&M, L 47-22 |
| Oct. 26 | @ Missouri, L 36-12 |
| Nov. 2 | Kansas State, L 64-0 |
| Nov. 9 | @ Nebraska |
| Nov. 16 | Oklahoma State |

Kansas State (7-2)

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Aug. 31 | Western Kentucky, W 48-3 |
| Sept. 7 | Louisiana-Monroe, W 68-0 |
| Sept. 14 | Eastern Illinois, W 63-13 |
| Sept. 21 | Southern Cal, W 27-20 |
| Oct. 5 | @ Colorado, L 35-31 |
| Oct. 12 | Oklahoma State, W 44-9 |
| Oct. 19 | Texas, L 17-14 |
| Oct. 26 | @ Baylor, W 44-10 |
| Nov. 2 | @ Kansas, W 64-0 |
| Nov. 9 | Iowa State |
| Nov. 16 | Nebraska |
| Nov. 23 | @ Missouri |

Game 11

Kansas

Nov. 9

Location: Lawrence, Kan.

Enrollment: 27,407

2002 record: 2-8

Coach: Mark Mangino,

1st year

Series: Nebraska leads 84-21-3



12:30 p.m. (CST)

Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.

Jayhawk to Watch

Junior Curtis Ansel is among 10 semifinalists for the third annual Ray Guy Award recognizing the nation's top collegiate punter. He has had a lot of opportunities for the 2-8 Jayhawks, punting 69 times in 10 games and averaging 42.3 yards. He has punts of 83 and 82 yards and has put 22 punts down inside the 20.



Quick Facts

The 64-0 loss to Kansas State was the third most lopsided defeat in KU history, topped only by a 70-0 hammering by Nebraska in 1986 and a 65-0 romp by Oklahoma in 1954.

Junior quarterback Bill Whittemore missed the Kansas State and may miss more games after suffering a knee injury against Missouri. Whittemore has passed for 1,666 yards and 11 touchdowns in nine games during his first season as a Jayhawk. He also has rushed for 549 yards and 11 TDs.

Redshirt freshman running back Clark Green has been a bright spot for the Jayhawks, leading the team in rushing with 606 yards and sharing the lead in receiving, with 30 catches for 312 yards.

On Deck

At Kansas State Nov. 16

Location: Manhattan, Kan.

Enrollment: 22,369

2002 record: 7-2

Coach: Bill Snyder, 14th year

Series: Nebraska leads 72-12-2



Time TBA

KSU Stadium, Manhattan, Kan.

Tentative 2 Deeps

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

| | | | | | |
|----|----|---------------------|------|-----|------|
| SE | 9 | Wilson Thomas*** | 6-6 | 215 | Sr. |
| | 2 | Ross Pilkington | 6-0 | 195 | Fr. |
| LT | 51 | Richie Incognito | 6-3 | 295 | RFr. |
| | 69 | Nick Piovendo | 6-3 | 300 | So. |
| LG | 78 | Mike Erickson* | 6-4 | 295 | So. |
| | 55 | Junior Tagoa'i* | 6-2 | 295 | Jr. |
| C | 52 | John Garrison*** | 6-4 | 290 | Sr. |
| | 79 | Josh Sewell | 6-2 | 300 | Jr. |
| RG | 59 | Wes Cody** | 6-2 | 305 | Sr. |
| | 55 | Junior Tagoa'i* | 6-2 | 295 | Jr. |
| RT | 68 | Dan Villi Waldrop** | 6-5 | 315 | Jr. |
| | 69 | Nick Piovendo | 6-3 | 300 | So. |
| TE | 99 | Aaron Golliday*** | 6-4 | 290 | Sr. |
| | 84 | Jon Bowling*** | 6-3 | 240 | Sr. |
| QB | 10 | Jammal Lord** | 6-2 | 210 | Jr. |
| | 16 | Mike Stuntz* | 6-1 | 200 | So. |
| FB | 4 | Judd Davies** | 6-0 | 255 | Jr. |
| | 45 | Steve Kriewald* | 5-10 | 255 | So. |
| IB | 30 | Dahran Diedrick*** | 6-0 | 225 | Sr. |
| | 5 | David Horne | 6-0 | 190 | Fr. |
| WB | 89 | Troy Hassebrook*** | 6-4 | 215 | Sr. |
| | 81 | Ben Cornelsen** | 5-10 | 190 | Sr. |
| PK | 26 | Josh Brown*** | 6-2 | 190 | Sr. |

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

| | | | | | |
|-------|----|--------------------|------|-----|------|
| LR | 57 | Chris Kelsay*** | 6-5 | 255 | Sr. |
| or | 88 | Trevor Johnson** | 6-4 | 250 | Jr. |
| NT | 59 | Ryon Bingham* | 6-3 | 280 | Jr. |
| | 55 | Jon Clanton*** | 6-2 | 285 | Sr. |
| DT | 94 | Patrick Kabongo** | 6-6 | 305 | Jr. |
| | 66 | La Kevin Smith | 6-2 | 300 | RFr. |
| RR | 98 | Demolne Adams*** | 6-2 | 260 | Sr. |
| or | 88 | Trevor Johnson** | 6-4 | 250 | Jr. |
| SLB | 43 | Scott Shanle*** | 6-2 | 240 | Sr. |
| | 47 | Ira Cooper* | 6-2 | 220 | So. |
| MLB | 38 | Barrett Ruud* | 6-2 | 240 | So. |
| | 54 | Chad Sievers | 6-3 | 225 | So. |
| WLB | 7 | Demorrio Williams | 6-1 | 205 | Jr. |
| or | 17 | T.J. Hollowell** | 6-0 | 220 | Jr. |
| LCB | 3 | Fabian Washington | 6-0 | 175 | Fr. |
| | 28 | Pat Ricketts** | 5-11 | 180 | Jr. |
| FS | 20 | Josh Bullocks | 6-1 | 195 | RFr. |
| or | 21 | Phillip Bland* | 5-11 | 205 | So. |
| ROV21 | | Phillip Bland* | 5-11 | 205 | So. |
| | 2 | Aaron Terpening*** | 5-11 | 195 | Sr. |
| RCB | 5 | DeJuan Groce*** | 5-10 | 190 | Sr. |
| | 1 | Lornell McPherson* | 5-9 | 175 | So. |
| P | 19 | Kyle Larson | 6-0 | 195 | Jr. |

Kansas OFFENSE

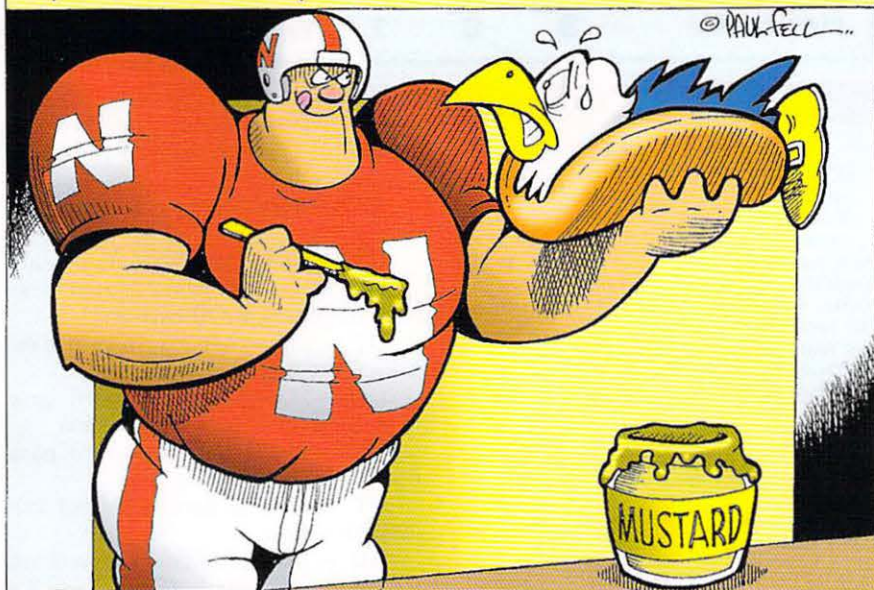
| | | | | | |
|----|----|--------------------|------|-----|------|
| WR | 2 | Byron Gasaway*** | 6-2 | 202 | Sr. |
| | 84 | Brandon Rideau* | 6-4 | 185 | So. |
| LT | 61 | Justin Sands*** | 6-7 | 305 | Sr. |
| | 78 | Danny Lewis | 6-4 | 275 | Jr. |
| LG | 52 | David Hurst*** | 6-3 | 275 | Sr. |
| | 68 | Tony Damiani | 6-3 | 280 | Sr. |
| C | 73 | Greg Nicks* | 6-4 | 300 | Sr. |
| | 76 | Justin Henry | 6-4 | 260 | RFr. |
| RG | 68 | Tony Damiani | 6-3 | 280 | Sr. |
| | 76 | Justin Henry | 6-4 | 260 | RFr. |
| RT | 75 | Tony Coker | 6-5 | 300 | So. |
| | 66 | John Harvey* | 6-4 | 295 | Jr. |
| TE | 87 | Adrian Jones** | 6-5 | 260 | Jr. |
| | 82 | Denver Latimore | 6-2 | 250 | So. |
| QB | 4 | Bill Whittemore | 6-0 | 195 | Jr. |
| or | 10 | Jonas Weatherbie* | 6-2 | 200 | Sr. |
| RB | 30 | Clark Green | 5-11 | 200 | RFr. |
| | 11 | Reggie Duncan** | 5-9 | 215 | Jr. |
| FB | 28 | Dan Coke** | 5-11 | 215 | So. |
| | 34 | Brandon Watkins* | 6-2 | 225 | So. |
| WR | 19 | Derrick Mills** | 5-7 | 165 | Jr. |
| | 15 | Marcellus Jones*** | 5-11 | 195 | Sr. |
| K | 46 | Johnny Beck* | 6-1 | 220 | So. |

Kansas DEFENSE

| | | | | | |
|-----|----|-------------------|------|-----|------|
| DE | 51 | Charlie Dennis* | 6-5 | 245 | Sr. |
| | 98 | Cory Kipp | 6-4 | 255 | Jr. |
| N | 90 | Tim Allen | 6-0 | 255 | RFr. |
| | 81 | Sid Bachmann | 6-2 | 270 | Jr. |
| DT | 87 | Travis Watkins* | 6-4 | 280 | So. |
| | 99 | Tony Strickland** | 6-4 | 285 | Sr. |
| DE | 92 | David McMillan* | 6-3 | 245 | So. |
| | 95 | Brandon Lacy* | 6-2 | 250 | Sr. |
| OLB | 7 | Nick Reid | 6-4 | 210 | Fr. |
| | 38 | Glenn Robinson** | 6-3 | 245 | Jr. |
| MLB | 58 | Greg Cole* | 6-2 | 238 | Sr. |
| | 45 | Kevin Kane | 6-0 | 215 | Fr. |
| OLB | 6 | Leo Etienne* | 6-0 | 215 | Fr. |
| | 59 | Brandon Perkins | 6-2 | 210 | Fr. |
| CB | 26 | Donnie Amadi | 5-11 | 170 | RFr. |
| | 17 | Ronnie Amadi | 5-11 | 175 | RFr. |
| SS | 39 | Jake Letorneau** | 6-1 | 190 | Sr. |
| | 9 | Tony Stubbs | 5-10 | 195 | So. |
| FS | 12 | Johnny McCoy* | 6-1 | 190 | So. |
| | 23 | Matt Jordan*** | 5-10 | 190 | Sr. |
| CB | 8 | Remulse Johnson | 5-8 | 170 | Jr. |
| | 17 | Ronnie Amadi | 5-11 | 175 | RFr. |
| P | 37 | Curtis Ansel* | 6-1 | 210 | Sr. |

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. KANSAS



NOVEMBER 9, 2002
JAYHAWKS GET TO BE GUESTS OF HONOR AT THIS YEAR'S HUSKER HOMECOMING TAILGATE PARTY!

PICKS

KANSAS AT NEBRASKA

Brian Hill Editor

Kansas fell behind 30-0 in the first quarter in losing to Kansas State 64-0 at home. With the Jayhawks 2-8 and 0-6 in the Big 12 Conference, Mark Mangino may be having second thoughts about leaving his assistant's job at Oklahoma. This should be a great opportunity for the Huskers to rack up a decisive win, get some of the starters a rest and get the reserves some playing time, which they haven't had much of lately. **Nebraska 52, Kansas 13**

Mike Babcock
Contributing Editor
Big 12 parity doesn't apply

to Kansas under first-year coach Mark Mangino, not at Nebraska's Memorial Stadium anyway. The Cornhuskers get a chance to get back on the winning track in a big way. **Nebraska 42, Kansas 10**

Terry Douglass Grand Island Independent Sports Editor

After a Big 12 South Division daily double of Texas A&M and Texas, Nebraska gets back into North Division play against Kansas. A blowout here would do wonders for the Cornhuskers heading into their final two games. And they should get it — just as long as they don't expect it. **Nebraska 42, Texas 10**

BY THE NUMBERS

Nebraska vs. Texas

Nov. 2, 2002 • Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.

Score By Quarters

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Texas | 3 | 3 | 14 | 7 | — | 27 |
| Nebraska | 3 | 0 | 7 | 14 | — | 24 |

Team Stats

| | UT | NU |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| First Downs | 27 | 17 |
| Rushing | 6 | 12 |
| Passing | 20 | 3 |
| Penalty | 1 | 2 |
| Rushing Attempts | 36 | 47 |
| Yards Gained Rushing | 110 | 360 |
| Yards Lost Rushing | 31 | 40 |
| Net Yards Rushing | 79 | 320 |
| Net Yards Passing | 419 | 98 |
| Passes Attempted | 47 | 16 |
| Passes Completed | 29 | 7 |
| Had Intercepted | 1 | 2 |
| Total Plays | 83 | 63 |
| Total Net Yards | 498 | 418 |
| Avg. Gain Per Play | 6.0 | 6.6 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 0-0 | 1-0 |
| Penalties-Yards | 12-91 | 6-55 |
| Punts-Yards | 6-224 | 4-182 |
| Avg. Per Punt | 37.3 | 45.5 |
| Punt Returns-Yards | 2-15 | 2-47 |
| Interceptions-Yards | 2-0 | 1-19 |
| Fumble Returns-Yards | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Kickoff Returns-Yards | 3-53 | 4-97 |
| Possession Time | 35:24 | 24:36 |

Scoring

NU — Josh Brown 48-yard field goal
UT — Dusty Mangum 25-yard field goal
UT — Mangum 41-yard field goal
NU — Jon Bowling 2-yard pass from Jammal Lord (Brown kick)
UT — Roy Williams 16-yard pass from Chris Simms (Mangum kick)
UT — Roy Williams 2-yard pass from Chris Simms (Mangum kick)
NU — Matt Herian 60-yard pass from Lord (Brown kick)
UT — Cedric Benson 3-yard run (Mangum kick)
NU — Dahrnan Diedrick 2-yard run (Mangum kick)
Att. — 78,268
Weather — cloudy
Temp. — 35

Individual Statistics

TEXAS

| Name | Att. | Yds. | YPC | LNG | TD |
|--------------|------|------|------|-----|----|
| Benson, C. | 28 | 86 | 3.1 | 17 | 1 |
| Williams, I. | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| Simms, C. | 7 | -8 | -1.1 | 9 | 0 |

PASSING

| Name | C-A-I | Pct. | Yds. | TD |
|-----------|---------|------|------|----|
| Simms, C. | 29-47-1 | 61.7 | 419 | 2 |

RECEIVING

| Name | No. | Yds. | YPC | LNG | TD |
|--------------|-----|------|------|-----|----|
| Williams, R. | 13 | 161 | 12.4 | 27 | 2 |
| Williams, I. | 6 | 111 | 18.5 | 49 | 0 |
| Jeffery, T. | 3 | 35 | 11.7 | 16 | 0 |
| Edwards, B. | 2 | 63 | 31.5 | 46 | 0 |
| Johnson, B. | 2 | 28 | 14.0 | 17 | 0 |
| Robin, B. | 2 | 20 | 10.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Benson, C. | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |

PUNTING

| Name | No. | Yds. | Avg. | LNG |
|--------------|-----|------|------|-----|
| Bradford, B. | 6 | 224 | 37.3 | 44 |

PUNT RETURNS

| Name | No. | Yds. | YPR | LNG | TD |
|------------|-----|------|-----|-----|----|
| Vasher, N. | 2 | 15 | 7.5 | 9 | 0 |

KICKOFF RETURNS

| Name | No. | Yds. | YPR | LNG | TD |
|-----------|-----|------|------|-----|----|
| Young, S. | 2 | 53 | 26.5 | 39 | 0 |

DEFENSE LEADERS

| Name | UT | AT | TT | FL | Int. | Sacks |
|--------------|----|----|----|------|------|-------|
| Boyd, R. | 4 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wright, R. | 4 | 5 | 9 | 3-9 | 0 | 1-5 |
| Johnson, D. | 6 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Huff, M. | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1-2 | 0 | 0 |
| Redding, C. | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2-14 | 0 | 1-9 |
| Thornton, K. | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pearson, D. | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Babers, R. | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jackson, L. | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1-8 | 0 | 0 |
| Vasher, N. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2-0 | 0 |
| Lee, S. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

NEBRASKA

RUSHING

| Name | Att. | Yds. | YPC | LNG | TD |
|----------|------|------|------|-----|----|
| Lord, J. | 23 | 234 | 10.2 | 54 | 0 |

| Name | Att. | Yds. | YPC | LNG | TD |
|--------------|------|------|------|-----|----|
| Diedrick, D. | 11 | 52 | 4.7 | 27 | 1 |
| Davis, J. | 2 | 33 | 16.5 | 33 | 0 |
| Horne, D. | 7 | 12 | 1.7 | 7 | 0 |
| Kriewald, S. | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Grixy, D. | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| Team | 1 | -7 | -7.0 | 0 | 0 |
| LeFlore, M. | 1 | -8 | -8.0 | 0 | 0 |

PASSING

| Name | C-A-I | Pct. | Yds. | TD |
|----------|--------|------|------|----|
| Lord, J. | 7-14-2 | 50.0 | 98 | 2 |

RECEIVING

| Name | No. | Yds. | YPC | LNG | TD |
|----------------|-----|------|------|-----|----|
| LeFlore, M. | 2 | 9 | 4.5 | 6 | 0 |
| Herian, M. | 1 | 60 | 60.0 | 60 | 1 |
| Horne, D. | 1 | 11 | 11.0 | 11 | 0 |
| Pilkington, R. | 1 | 9 | 9.0 | 9 | 0 |
| Davis, J. | 1 | 7 | 7.0 | 7 | 0 |
| Bowling, J. | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 1 |

PUNTING

| Name | No. | Yds. | Avg. | LNG |
|------------|-----|------|------|-----|
| Larson, K. | 4 | 182 | 45.5 | 51 |

PUNT RETURNS

| Name | No. | Yds. | YPR | LNG | TD |
|-------------|-----|------|------|-----|----|
| Groce, D. | 1 | 44 | 44.0 | 44 | 0 |
| Simmons, M. | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |

KICKOFF RETURNS

| Name | No. | Yds. | YPR | LNG | TD |
|----------------|-----|------|------|-----|----|
| Davis, J. | 3 | 91 | 30.3 | 46 | 0 |
| Ringenberg, K. | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |

DEFENSE

| Name | UT | AT | TT | FL | Int. | Sacks |
|----------------|----|----|----|------|------|-------|
| Groce, D. | 11 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ruud, B. | 6 | 5 | 11 | 3-13 | 0 | 1-9 |
| Bland, P. | 4 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bullocks, J. | 4 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 1-19 | 0 |
| Kabongo, P. | 4 | 1 | 5 | 1-2 | 0 | 0 |
| Washington, F. | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Williams, D. | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bingham, R. | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1-7 | 0 | 1-7 |
| Adams, D. | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Johnson, T. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shanle, S. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hollowell, T. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Smith, L. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Siegel, S. | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ricketts, P. | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Clanton, J. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1-8 | 0 | 1-8 |
| Smith, J. | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1-1 | 0 | 0 |
| McPherson, L. | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |



Nebraska quarterback Jammal Lord stiff-arms Texas cornerback Rod Babers.

2002 SEASON STATS

RUSHING LEADERS

| Name | G | Att. | Yds. | YPG | TD |
|--------------|----|------|-------|-------|----|
| Lord, J. | 10 | 179 | 1,155 | 115.5 | 7 |
| Diedrick, D. | 10 | 134 | 622 | 62.2 | 5 |
| Horne, D. | 5 | 87 | 434 | 86.8 | 6 |
| Ross, C. | 10 | 30 | 167 | 16.7 | 2 |
| Davis, J. | 9 | 15 | 122 | 13.6 | 0 |
| Davis, J. | 10 | 29 | 106 | 10.6 | 4 |
| LeFlore, M. | 8 | 3 | 85 | 10.6 | 1 |
| Simmons, M. | 9 | 9 | 43 | 4.8 | 0 |
| Collins, T. | 3 | 14 | 39 | 13.0 | 0 |
| Stuntz, M. | 5 | 11 | 19 | 3.8 | 0 |
| Kriewald, S. | 10 | 7 | 19 | 1.9 | 0 |

PASSING LEADERS

| Name | G | C-A-I | Pct. | Yds. | TD |
|------------|----|----------|------|------|----|
| Lord, J. | 10 | 69-136-8 | 50.7 | 957 | 8 |
| Stuntz, M. | 5 | 9-22-0 | 40.9 | 97 | 0 |

RECEIVING LEADERS

| Name | G | No. | Yds. | YPC | YPG | TD |
|-----------------|----|-----|------|------|------|----|
| Thomas, W. | 10 | 23 | 238 | 10.3 | 23.8 | 2 |
| Pilkington, R. | 10 | 13 | 277 | 21.3 | 27.7 | 1 |
| Davis, J. | 9 | 7 | 49 | 7.0 | 5.4 | 0 |
| Cornelsen, B. | 10 | 6 | 81 | 13.5 | 8.1 | 0 |
| Hasselbroek, T. | 10 | 5 | 54 | 10.8 | 5.4 | 1 |
| Ross, C. | 10 | 5 | 39 | 7.8 | 3.9 | 0 |
| Herian, M. | 9 | 4 | 89 | 21.5 | 9.9 | 1 |
| Bowling, J. | 8 | 3 | 137 | 45.7 | 17.1 | 2 |
| Herian, M. | 8 | 3 | 16 | 5.3 | 1.6 | 0 |
| Diedrick, D. | 10 | 3 | 14 | 4.7 | 1.4 | 0 |
| LeFlore, M. | 8 | 3 | 14 | 4.7 | 1.8 | 0 |
| Golliday, A. | 9 | 2 | 17 | 8.5 | 1.9 | 1 |

FIELD GOALS

| Name | G | Att. | Good | Long |
|-----------|----|------|------|------|
| Brown, J. | 10 | 11 | 8 | 43 |

PUNTING

| Name | No. | Yds. | Avg. | LNG |
|------------|-----|-------|------|-----|
| Larson, K. | 46 | 1,973 | 42.9 | 71 |

PUNT RETURN LEADER

| Name | No. | Yds. | YPR | LNG | TD |
|-----------|-----|------|------|-----|----|
| Groce, D. | 25 | 525 | 21.0 | 89 | 3 |

KICKOFF RETURN LEADER

| Name | No. | Yds. | YPR | LNG | TD |
|-----------|-----|------|------|-----|----|
| Davis, J. | 26 | 617 | 23.7 | 46 | 0 |

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

| Name | G | UT | AT | TT | FL | Int. | S/Yds. |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|------|------|--------|
| Bland, P. | 10 | 30 | 29 | 59 | 5-13 | 0 | 0 |
| Ruud, B. | 10 | 27 | 31 | 58 | 9-31 | 0 | 2-17 |
| Williams, D. | 10 | 25 | 31 | 56 | 2-16 | 0 | 1-15 |
| Shanle, S. | 10 | 23 | 32 | 55 | 4-14 | 0 | 1-10 |
| Ricketts, P. | 10 | 29 | 21 | 50 | 1-14 | 2-5 | 0 |
| Kabongo, P. | 9 | 9 | 36 | 45 | 9-25 | 0 | 2-17 |
| Groce, D. | 10 | 29 | 14 | 43 | 2-3 | 4-26 | 0 |
| Hollowell, T. | 10 | 15 | 28 | 43 | 2-6 | 0 | 1-5 |

TEAM STATISTICS

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Total Offensive Yards | 3,886 | 3,596 | | | | |
| Plays | 691 | 724 | | | | |
| Average Per Play | 5.6 | 5.9 | | | | |
| Average Per Game | 388.6 | 359.6 | | | | |
| Net Rushing Yards | 2,832 | 1,262 | | | | |
| Attempts | 530 | 371 | | | | |
| TDs Rushing | 25 | 14 | | | | |
| Net Passing Yards | 1,054 | 2,334 | | | | |
| Completions | 78 | 180 | | | | |
| Average Per Pass | 6.5 | 6.6 | | | | |
| Average Per Catch | 13.5 | 13.0 | | | | |
| Average Per Game | 105.4 | 233.4 | | | | |
| TDs Passing | 8 | 9 | | | | |
| Sacks By-Yards | 22-170 | 15-105 | | | | |
| Fumbles-Lost | 24-11 | 10-3 | | | | |
| Penalties-Yards | 59-525 | 59-419 | | | | |
| Scoring | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | TOT |
| NU | 51 | 83 | 63 | 92 | 0 | 289 |
| Opponents | 40 | 55 | 79 | 50 | 0 | 224 |

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Frustrating Season

After leading Big 12 in rushing as junior, Diedrick expected a banner senior year

By Mike Babcock

On the Tuesday before the Texas A&M game, following practice, Dahrran Diedrick sat down with a handful of writers and discussed the frustrations of his senior season.

He was matter-of-fact, dispassionate almost, without bitterness or complaint.

"I wish I didn't stay here, my senior year," he said in response to a question about how difficult the season had been for him to that point. "I wish I wouldn't have stayed."

He never considered leaving, of course. That had never crossed his mind after a junior season in which he led the Big 12 in rushing, with 1,299 yards and 15 touchdowns.

And he has never come close to quitting, although "the thought runs across your mind sometimes," he said. "But you've just got to think what's best for the team, what's best for you, not to quit. No matter how things get, there's always going to be a point where you're going to bring yourself back up."

"You've got to try to work harder and change things."

The wisdom of those words was apparent later that week, when Nebraska went to College Station and won 38-31, with Diedrick contributing 85 yards rushing and a touchdown.

He didn't crack 100 yards rushing, but he was a significant factor, complementing freshman David Horne, providing the Cornhuskers with a combination of power and speed at I-back.

That's the bottom line for Diedrick. "I'm a team player. I'm always looking for the best for the team before myself," he said. "When things aren't going well either way, it's tough."

This was going to be Diedrick's season. The signs were clear. On page 106 of the Nebraska football media



Senior I-back Dahrran Diedrick started the season by carrying 18 times for 79 yards against Arizona State. Two games later, he had 93 yards vs. Utah State.

guide, he is identified as an "All-America candidate," justifiably so.

He was first-team all-conference in 2001, and *The Sporting News* and *Lindy's* included him among the nation's Top 10 collegiate running backs in their 2002 preseason annuals.

Diedrick went into the season at No. 24 on Nebraska's career-rushing list, with 1,814 yards. With a statistical repeat of his junior season, he would have become just the sixth Cornhusker to gain 3,000 yards, joining Mike Rozier, Ahman Green, Eric Crouch, Calvin Jones and Derek Brown.

"I was obviously looking forward to a lot of things," said Diedrick.

Through the first nine games, however, he had yet to rush for 100 or more yards — or get as many as 20 carries, after averaging 21 per game in the same backfield playing with Crouch.

"It's far from anything I expected, personally," Diedrick said.

He gained 100 or more yards in seven games last season, but "there's just a lot of stuff I used to do last year that I don't do this year," he said. "Now, I don't even know how it feels to get 100 yards in a game. I don't have any clue how it feels. Last year, it

just felt that even in games where you thought you had 50 yards, you had like 120 yards . . . I don't know how to get there anymore."

Prior to the A&M game, his embarrassment was such that he didn't want to go to class. And when his mom called to ask about the situation, he had to "make up some excuse," he said. "I don't like talking about things when they aren't going well. I just prefer to keep it to myself."

Lest his honesty be misinterpreted, Diedrick's discontent has been a result of the team's problems as much as his own. His words followed the Oklahoma State game, remember.

"I think if things had been going the way they've been going for me right now and we had been winning, I really don't think it would be as big a deal for me," he said.

It wasn't as big of a deal early on, when Nebraska was winning its first three games, although Diedrick saw what he considered signs of the coaches' lack of confidence in him even then.

He averaged 16 carries in the first four games, then got only eight at Iowa State.

"It seemed to me like they (coaches) were looking for somebody to take

my spot," he said. "A lot of games at the beginning of the season, I was just always so mad about running off the field."

"Every play, I'm always looking. 'Here comes somebody.' It was always somebody new. If it was one person and they didn't get the job done, the next week it would be somebody else."

Even so, Diedrick began the season atop the depth chart, and he has remained there, now sharing the No. 1 position with true freshman David Horne, whom he has been quick to help.

"I'm trying to help our football team," he said. "I'm not selfish in any way."

He also hasn't shirked responsibility for what has happened.

"Obviously, if I was playing great, there wouldn't be any reason to take me out," he said.

Whatever the reasons, he wasn't producing the big plays for which the coaches were looking, and "when things seem like they're not going right, you're not going to just keep sticking with it," he said. "You've got to try to make a change. And we've made a lot of changes so far."

Diedrick worked hard during the off-season, and when the season began, "I had so much confidence," he said. "I just felt like at practice there was nobody that could tackle me."

But the confidence "quickly started withering away whenever I'd read something in the newspaper, wondering why? Why is that? Physically, I don't think anything is changed about me. It's just that when you're lacking confidence, that hurts a lot of things. You've got to wonder, 'It must be me.'"


Diedrick refuses to complain, or to blame the coaches, whom he describes as "superior to other coaches." In fact, he was defensive on that subject. "Why do people want to throw in the towel on Coach (Frank) Solich? He just went to the national championship game last year," said Diedrick.

"And next year, we might win the national championship."

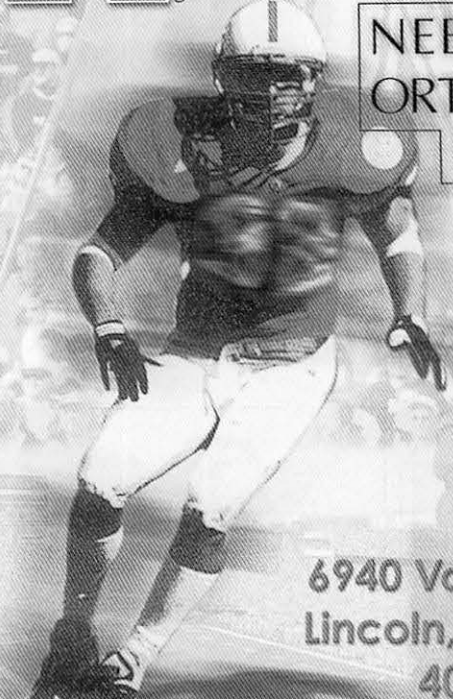
If that were to happen, he wouldn't be a part of it, of course. This is his last go-around, and he's determined to make the most of it. To that end, his focus is one game at a time.

There have been times when he wishes he hadn't stayed, like before the A&M game. But that was his frustration speaking, not him. He thinks about his responsibility to the team, which can't be measured by the number of carries or the yards he gains with those carries. "You can't just throw in the towel," he said. "You get one punch, and you're a little bit dazed. But you've got to fight it out."


"I think that's what we're doing." ■



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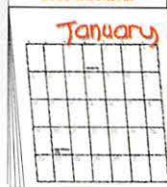
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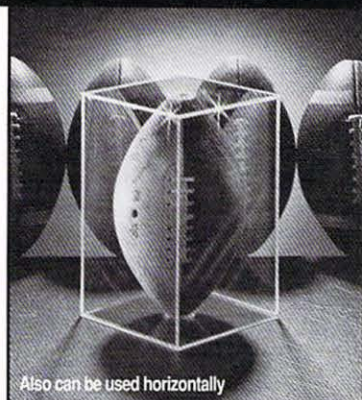


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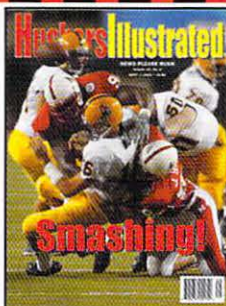
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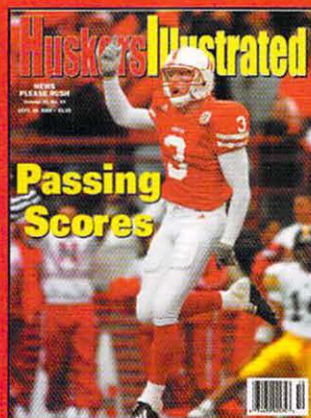
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Life Lesson

Huskers draw together after suspension of All-America setter Cepero

By Todd Henrichs

The last time Lindsay Wischmeier was responsible for running this style of offense, it was after her senior year in high school in an all-star match where bragging rights were all that was on the line.

She had traded in her setter's hands two years ago, resigned to the fact that her place on the volleyball court was as a defensive specialist. Wischmeier won a national championship in that role in 2000.

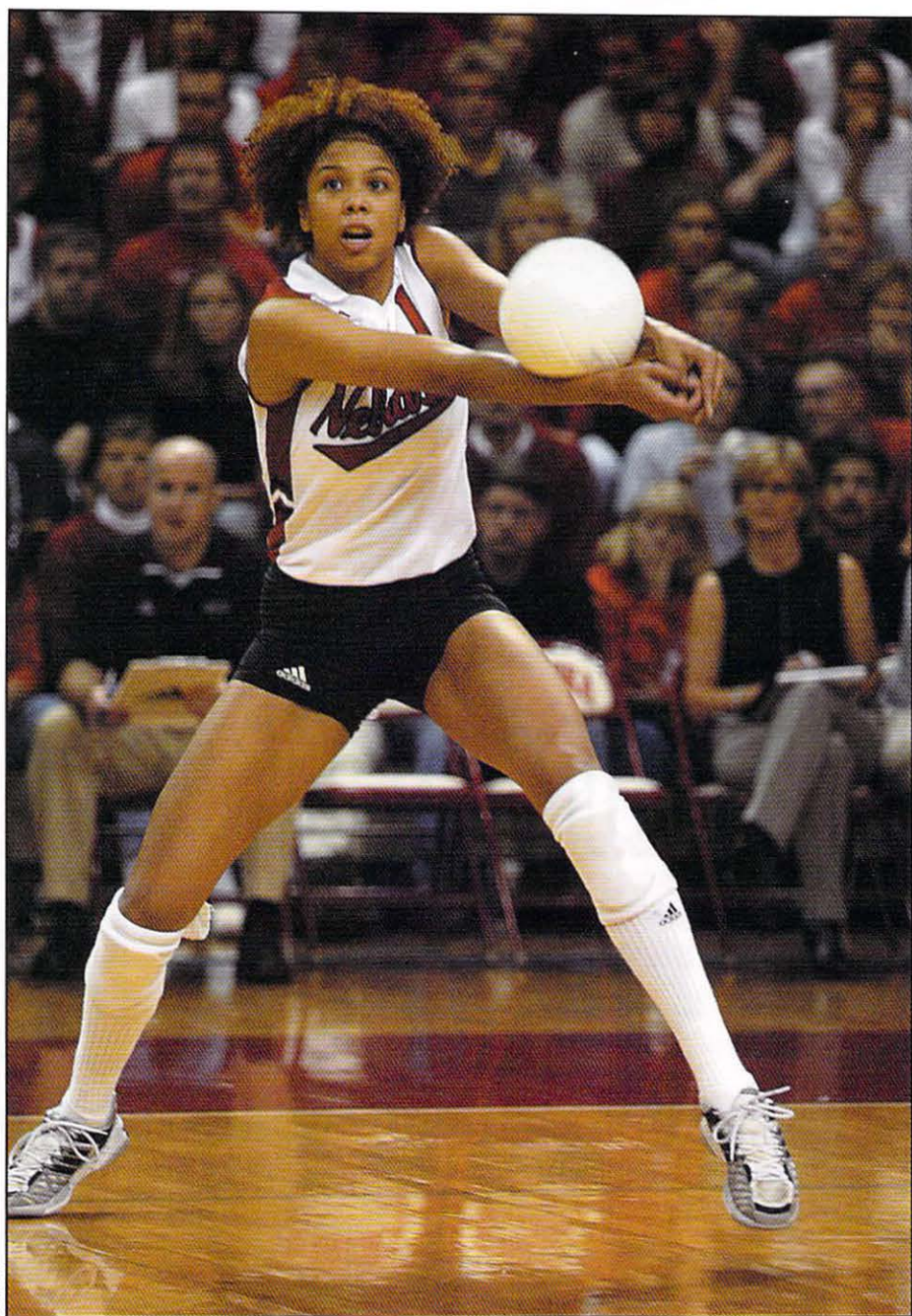
When and where this promising Nebraska volleyball season ends, a lot of people will point to Wischmeier and her performance against Oklahoma on Oct. 16 as the turning point of the year.

That night, after a mere two days of preparation, Wischmeier stepped back into the role of setter and made it seem as easy as riding a bike.

"If there is any kid that can do what she did, she's the one," Nebraska head coach John Cook said. "She's as tough as they come."

Apparently, so too is Cook, at least that's what folks were saying after he had suspended All-America setter Greichaly Cepero for the Oklahoma match.

Cepero had been ticketed by police for disturbing the peace and failure to obey an officer's order, both misdemeanor counts but black marks against the treasured history and tra-



Senior setter Greichaly Cepero returned to the Nebraska lineup after sitting out the match at Oklahoma.

dition of the Nebraska program.

Cook never would have left Wisconsin were it not for that tradition and his respect for the architect — former head coach Terry Pettit — runs deep.

And though both men are career coaches, they are as much teachers as whistle-blowers. From the very first moments, Cook referred to the incident involving Cepero as one of life's lessons, not a crisis that threatened

the life of Nebraska's season.

"This is not about winning and losing," Cook said. "It's about the standards that have been set at Nebraska for volleyball that I have a responsibility to keep."

"It's a privilege to be a player at Nebraska, and the most powerful thing a coach can do to teach a lesson is take that a way."

Cepero's suspension ended after the Oklahoma match but not before Cook was assured the timing was right. He required his setter to arrange for counseling sessions, to enroll in a diversion program, to face her team and eventually, the media.

"Going through this and knowing that my teammates have my back, it makes you realize that they're going to be there for you no matter what," Cepero said. "I made a big mistake, and there's no excuse for what I did."

In Cepero's tearful apology to family, friends, teammates and even Nebraska's ardently supportive volleyball fans, Cook witnessed a spark that he hadn't seen from Nebraska's setter all year.

And the team, which in his words

had been "bumping along" before the tumultuous week, suddenly had some energy. Cepero's actions in drawing the suspension may have temporarily shattered the team's trust but ultimately would draw the team together.

Cook compared the interruption to an incident late in the 2000 season when Laura Pilakowski underwent an emergency appendectomy. Nebraska unified for a tough road victory at Kansas State and went on to the national title.

"Any time a team goes through something that causes some adversity, it's a great opportunity to pull together," Cook said. "We didn't really have anything like that last year."

"There seems to be a new life, and we've challenged the team to play with that emotion and togetherness from here on out."

With Cepero back in the lineup, Nebraska is well on its way to winning the fourth Big 12 title of her career and that of the other three Nebraska seniors.

Wischmeier has never missed a match over those four years, but one

she'll never forget is the night she directed the team at Oklahoma.

With the Huskers' three-year conference winning streak at stake, her teammates served, passed, blocked and attacked as hard as they ever had.

In a tense week, the wide smiles from the Nebraska bench included an occasional grin from Cepero.

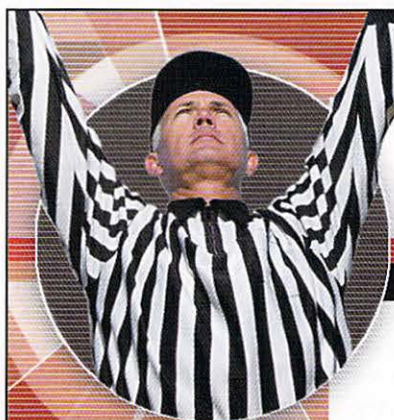
Legend has it that Wischmeier was knocked cold in a high school basketball game once yet wobbled to the free-throw line and sank the winning shot. Her farm background is unique among the players on this Nebraska team, who voted Wischmeier their lone captain.

After leading Nebraska to its win at Oklahoma, Wischmeier shared the accolades.

"I didn't do anything special," she said. "It's easy when you have people like that out on the court."

That and a steep learning curve.

"The situation made us think about why we're here and why we're playing," senior Laura Pilakowski said. "Maybe we didn't realize that before, but we do now." ■



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Huskers Eye JUCO Talent

Junior college players could give Nebraska immediate help at some positions

By Doug Horwich

Nebraska has traditionally limited its pursuit of junior college talent to an average of one player per year over the past decade, preferring instead to focus on developing high school players in the system.

Over the past eight recruiting seasons, the Huskers have signed only seven junior college players, and the team has not had a particularly high success rate with these players. Of the seven, only outside linebacker Terrell Farley proved to be a true impact player. However, 2002 linebacker recruit Demorrio Williams started in his first game for the



Independence (Kan.) Community College's Ray Gurley, one of the top junior college tight ends in the nation, plans to take a visit to Nebraska.

Huskers this season and continues to improve with each successive outing.

Aside from Farley and Williams, Nebraska's five other junior college signees since 1995 have had limited impact.

Cornerback Brandon Harrison was kicked off the team for violation of team policy. Defensive tackle Glen Matthews never played a down for the Huskers after being injured in a car accident and giving up football. Split end Larry Henderson never developed his skills enough to contribute on the field in a meaningful capacity. I-back Thunder Collins

recently quit the team — partly because of limited playing time, and cornerback Rodney Burgess has seen limited action.

Although Nebraska has not had a great deal of success in recruiting junior college players over the past 10 years or so, the success rate of these players has not necessarily been lower than the success rate of high school players over the same span. The difference is that junior college players are expected to be immediate difference-makers, while high school players usually redshirt and are generally not expected to have an impact for at least a year or two.

Nebraska's depth at a number of positions is such that the Husker staff may be looking for immediate help from the junior college ranks. A number of junior college players are currently being evaluated by the Nebraska coaches, and a handful already have received written offers.

Positions of particular urgency are cornerback, tight end, outside linebacker and rush end.

One player previewed in Huskers Illustrated in the spring was Antwon Guidry (6-foot, 210 pounds, 4.4 in the 40-yard dash), a versatile speed athlete who originally signed with Nebraska in the class of 2001 but failed to qualify academically.

Guidry is currently enrolled at Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College, where he has played both I-back and cornerback. He also redshirted during his freshman season, which gives him three remaining years of Division I eligibility. Guidry was on track to enroll at Nebraska in January of 2003, but it's likely that he

Nebraska Commitments for 2003

| Player | Hometown (school) | Ht. | Wt. | Pos. |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Greg Austin | Cypress, Texas | 6-2 | 275 | OL |
| Andy Birkel | Lincoln (Southeast), Neb. | 6-3 | 180 | WR |
| Steve Craver | Hurst, Texas | 6-2 | 195 | DB/LB |
| Josh Mueller | Columbus (Lakeview), Neb. | 6-7 | 250 | TE |
| *Trevor Neeman | Lincoln (Southeast), Neb. | 6-3 | 225 | TE/DE |
| *Kade Pittman | North Platte, Neb. | 6-0 | 190 | RB/DB |
| Bo Ruud | Lincoln (Southeast), Neb. | 6-3 | 210 | LB |
| Brandon Teamer | Omaha (Central), Neb. | 6-5 | 256 | DE |

*scheduled to enter school in the fall of 2002 as part-time students and receive scholarships in January 2003.

will not be eligible to transfer until next August.

Guidry was originally recruited as a cornerback by Nebraska but gained some weight and was showing impressive skills as an I-back for Hutchinson. However, the Huskers' need for cornerback talent, as well as the fact that Guidry is now playing that position, likely means that he would play cornerback at Nebraska.

The Husker staff is doing everything possible to ensure that Guidry will be playing in Lincoln next year, and with DeJuan Groce graduating and Willie Amos still recovering from knee surgery, he could be asked to start at right cornerback immediately.

Another junior college cornerback who is receiving extensive national attention is Chijioke Onyenegecha (6-2, 185, 4.5) from San Francisco (Calif.) City College.

Onyenegecha has been offered by most of the schools in the Pac-10, in addition to Oklahoma, Florida State, Iowa State and Kansas, among others.

Onyenegecha is considered by many to be the top cornerback in the junior college ranks this year, and he excels in man-to-man coverage. Part of his success can be attributed to his blazing speed, and he has a personal best time of 10.27 seconds (hand-held) in the 100-meter dash.

Thus far in his sophomore season, Onyenegecha has rarely been challenged and has caused problems for teams that tried to throw in his direction.

"I've allowed two passes to be caught all season," he said. "Probably 20 have been thrown my way, and I've broken up about 19. They don't throw my way much."

Onyenegecha intends to take all five of his visits, and one of them may be to Nebraska. The Husker staff has offered a scholarship and sends handwritten letters frequently. However, they will have much ground to make up, as Oklahoma appears to have the upper hand for Onyenegecha's signature.

Another junior college athlete on the radar screen of the Husker coaching staff is Alvin "Randy" Marshall (5-9, 180, 4.5) from Compton (Calif.) Community College. Marshall is a player who originally signed with

Husker Visitors Still Undecided

By Rick Shaw

The Nebraska coaching staff brought a handful of high school football players into Lincoln for official recruiting visits during September-October.

This number pales in comparison to the 30 or 40 athletes who will make their way to Lincoln over the next two months. However, the visitors who have already visited campus are key recruits for Nebraska, and their college decisions will go a long way toward measuring Nebraska's success in the 2002 recruiting game.

— **Mikal Brewer:** This 6-foot-3, 285-pound offensive guard prospect from Peoria, Ariz., took his first visit of the recruiting campaign to Lincoln on Aug. 24. Brewer, who is listed as one of the nation's top 20 offensive guard prospects by Rivals.com, still has the Huskers high on his list. He plans to take his remaining allotted visits before making his decision. Northwestern, Stanford, UCLA, and Notre Dame round out his remaining finalists.

— **Bernard Jackson:** The 6-2, 195-pound quarterback from Corona, Calif., visited Lincoln Oct. 12 for the Missouri game. Jackson, who is rated among the top 11 dual-threat quarterback prospects in the country by Rivals.com, also took October visits to Colorado and Kansas State. According to family, Jackson was expected to announce his decision for one of his three finalists around the end of October.

— **Marcus Woods:** The 5-8, 180-pound running back from Farmington Hills, Mich., also was on hand when the Huskers defeated Missouri on Oct. 12. Woods, who is rated by Rivals.com as the No. 8 all-purpose running back, also has a visit planned to Michigan State on Dec. 13. He currently lists Nebraska and Michigan State even in the race for his signature to a letter of intent in February.

— **Joe Thomas:** The 6-7, 285-pound offensive lineman/tight end from Brookfield, Wis., was in Lincoln on Oct. 11. Thomas, who is rated among the top 20 offensive tackle prospects in the country by Rivals.com, is being courted by many of the nation's top college programs. Colorado, Notre Dame, Tennessee, Southern Cal, Purdue and others are competing to get winter visits from Thomas. He said that all of his suitors are even at this point in the recruiting process.

— **Martin Rucker:** The 6-5, 210-pound tight end/defensive end prospect from St. Joseph, Mo., was in Lincoln to witness Nebraska's win over Missouri. Rucker, the brother of former Nebraska all-American Mike Rucker, is considered to be among the nation's top 25 tight end prospects by Rivals.com. He listed the Huskers and Missouri Tigers as tied for the lead going into the month of November. Rucker hopes to make his decision by Christmas.

— **Tommy Zbikowski:** The 6-1, 190-pound quarterback from Buffalo Grove, Ill., made an unofficial visit to Lincoln for the Nebraska-Missouri game. Zbikowski, who is rated as the No. 8 dual-threat quarterback prospect by Rivals.com, has an official visit planned to Nebraska in December. He also plans to visit Notre Dame, Iowa, and Arizona State. Nebraska, Notre Dame, and Iowa are the current front-runners for Zbikowski's signature. ■

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Memorial Stadium is not big enough to hold Nebraska's annual soybean production. In fact, at 180 million bushels, Nebraska produces enough soybeans to fill 11 Memorial Stadiums.

Soybeans are used to make food, animal feed, crayons, candles, wood adhesives, paints and soy biodiesel fuel.

If Memorial Stadium isn't big enough, just think how puny those Wildcats must feel.



Soybeans

Nebraska Soybean Board

Nebraska out of high school in the class of 2000 but failed to qualify academically.

Nebraska assistant George Darlington has maintained frequent contact with Marshall, and the Huskers appeared to have the inside track for his services initially. However, his younger brother recently signed with Fresno State, and the Bulldogs now appear to be in the driver's seat. In addition to Fresno State and Nebraska, Marshall is also looking at Oregon, Oregon State and Washington. All have offered scholarships.

Marshall does not intend to visit Nebraska officially, as he visited Lincoln when he was originally recruited out of high school. However, the Huskers are very much in the picture for his signature.

With the top three tight ends on the depth chart graduating after this season, the Husker staff also is looking for immediate help at the position.

One player who may be in a position to provide such help is Ray Gurley (6-5, 255, 4.8) from Independence (Kan.) Community College. Gurley is one of the top junior college tight ends in the nation and has already been offered a scholarship by the Husker staff.

Eager to get the process rolling, Gurley has already set up the majority of his official visits.

"I'll be taking an unofficial visit to TCU this upcoming weekend just to check things out," he said. "Then there's Arizona on Dec. 6 and Nebraska on the 13th of that month. I have a pending visit to Tennessee set up for Nov. 9.

"It depends how far we go, so that isn't set in stone right now. I'm going to Mississippi State on Nov. 23 and still trying to decide between Oregon and Florida for the last visit."

Gurley's primary concern in selecting a school is early playing time, which could give the Huskers an advantage.

"The most important thing is playing time," he said. "Right now, all my schools have real good situations. I'm just going to go out there and check out the campus, check out the game day atmosphere and see how loud it gets. Hopefully, something will just click." ■

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CROSSWORD

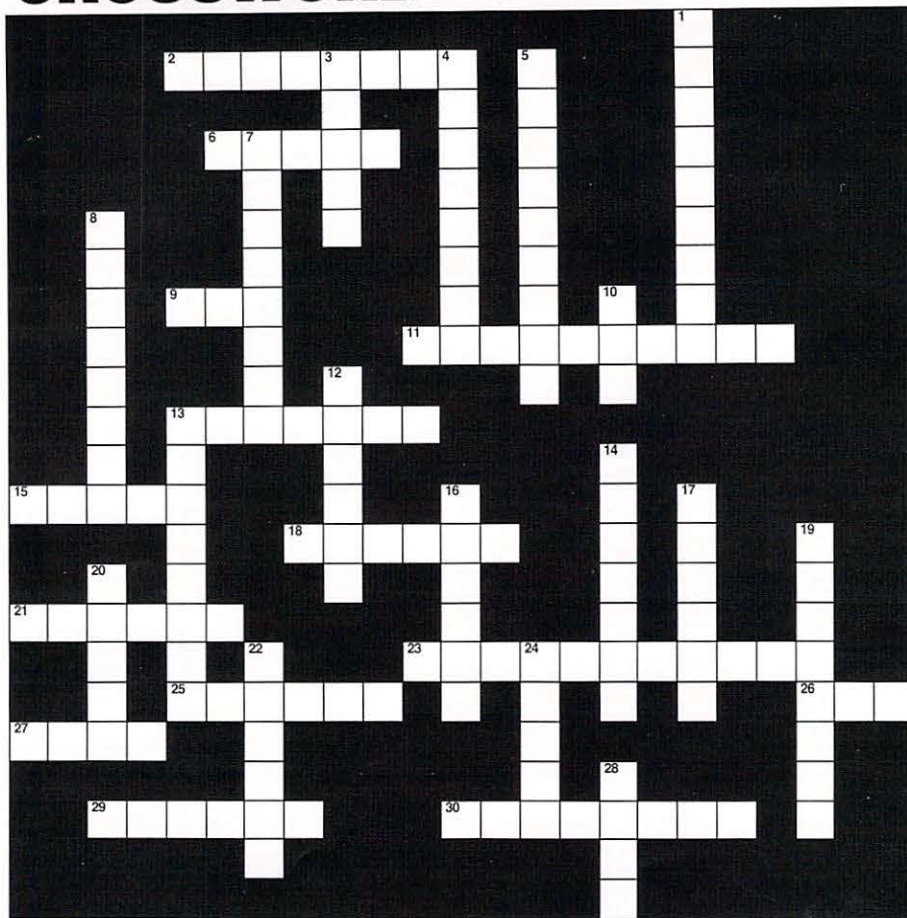
ACROSS

- 2 1971 Outland Trophy winner
- 6 Ex-NU kicker now with Houston Texans
- 9 Number of NU road wins this season
- 11 Dan Vili Waldrop's home state
- 13 Ex-NU defensive end now with St. Louis Rams
- 15 Ex-NU running back now with Green Bay Packers
- 18 NU's No. 4 (offense)
- 21 NU's leading receiver vs. Texas A&M
- 23 Ex-NU defensive end now with Arizona Cardinals
- 25 NU rush end sidelined by hamstring injury
- 26 Network for NU-Colorado game
- 27 NU's No. 19 (offense)
- 29 Kansas State head coach
- 30 John Garrison's home state

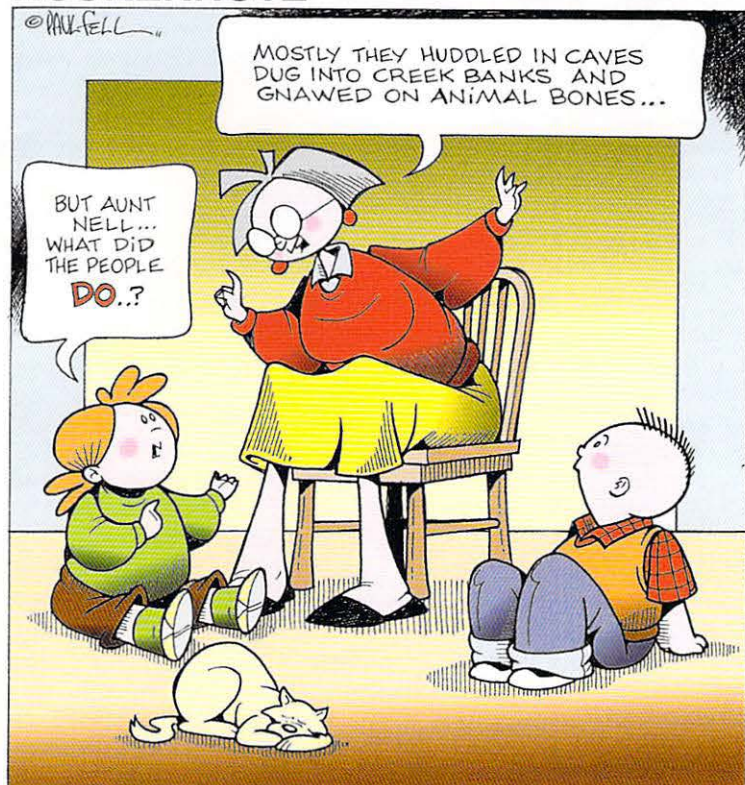
DOWN

- 1 NU wingback from Kansas
- 3 NU has been in 33 straight
- 4 1971 national champion
- 5 NU running back coach
- 7 NU's leading tackler vs. Texas A&M
- 8 Kansas campus location
- 10 NU head coach before Frank Angeli
- 12 Ex-Husker on World Series champion Angels
- 13 Johnny Rodgers' position at NU
- 14 Kansas head coach
- 16 NU freshman tight end
- 17 NU's No. 19 (special teams)
- 19 Kansas nickname
- 20 Scored 4 touchdowns vs. Texas A&M
- 22 1972 Outland Trophy winner
- 24 NU's No. 25 (offense)
- 28 NU's leading rusher vs. Texas A&M

Answers in Nov. 16 issue



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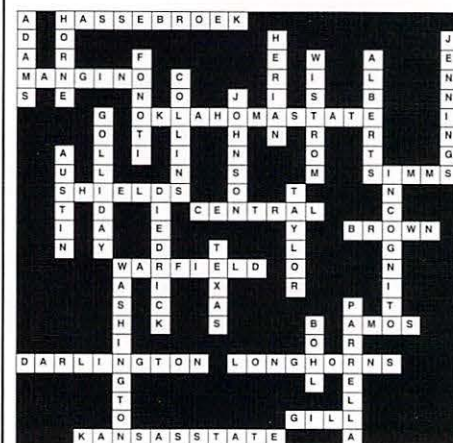
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NOV. 2 CROSSWORD SOLUTION



No Moral Victory

Narrow loss leaves Huskers proud, disappointed they couldn't close the deal



Mike BABCOCK

DEJUAN GROCE STRUGGLED with what he perceived to be a contradiction following Nebraska's 27-24 loss against Texas. "I want to say we should be proud of ourselves," he said. "But we lost."

There was no contradiction in that, however. Even though they lost, the Cornhuskers could take pride in their effort, something they couldn't have done in their three previous losses. With their backs to the wall, they responded, against a team with realistic hopes of playing in a BCS bowl game.

If the team that played Texas had shown up earlier in the season, Nebraska would be a serious candidate to represent the north division in the Big 12 championship game at Houston on Dec. 7. The Cornhuskers could get there, but they would need some help, in addition to winning out.

Still, finishing with three consecutive victories to keep their record of nine-victory seasons in tact doesn't seem as far-fetched as it did following a 24-21 loss at Oklahoma State.

Nebraska is playing with a confidence that was lacking in Stillwater, and in Ames, and in State College. Against Texas, "I never felt spirits die," said senior place-kicker Josh Brown. "I never thought the team lost hope. I think overall we were very positive throughout the game."

The Cornhuskers put themselves in position to win. "We just didn't close it," senior I-back Dahrran Diedrick said. "We just came inches away from getting this thing done."

Given the statistics, it might have appeared that the defense didn't hold up its end. The Longhorns finished with 498 yards of offense, 419 of them on the passing of oft-maligned Chris Simms. "He has as good of an arm as anyone in the NFL," said Nebraska middle linebacker Barrett Ruud.

"If you give him all day to throw, he's going to pick you apart."

Simms picked the defense apart, keeping it off-balance by mixing in occasional passes to fullback Ivan Williams to alleviate the pressure on wide receiver Roy Williams.

Still, 498 yards will usually translate into more than three touchdowns. Texas, which couldn't establish the run, had to settle for two Dusty Mangum field goals in the first half.

And when Cornhuskers needed a stop in the final minutes, the defense provided it.

"This team and this defense has a tremendous resolve, and at no time will they ever back down or lose confi-

dence," Cornhusker defensive coordinator Craig Bohl said. "The thing we're most proud of as coaches is the way they fought, the way they kept battling, and the confidence they have in themselves."

"The one thing you ask as a coach is that you give great effort and you never give up."

Bohl was impassioned as he talked to reporters.

"If I sound like I'm a little bit emotional about it, I am," he said.

Quarterbacks coach Turner Gill used the word pride in describing Jammal Lord's play. The junior quarterback rushed for 234 yards against a defense that ranked No. 3 nationally. And he did it despite the fact that the Longhorns regularly stacked all 11 defenders near the line of scrimmage.

Texas was allowing only 258.9 yards of total offense per game.

Lord personally accounted for 332 of Nebraska's 418 yards.

"He had a heck of a game," said Gill.

From the beginning of the season until now, Lord has come, "I think, a long way," Coach Frank Solich said. "He's got great ability, and that ability is showing now."

Lord couldn't hide his disappointment following the game, taking responsibility for the loss. But it was obvious that without him the Cornhuskers couldn't have kept up. "I hope he doesn't take it too hard," said Ruud. "He played a great game. I have a lot of confidence in him."

And so does the rest of the team. You can ask anyone.

Texas Coach Mack Brown complimented Nebraska. "I said before the game that it was the best non-rated team in America. I'll stand by that statement again tonight," he said.

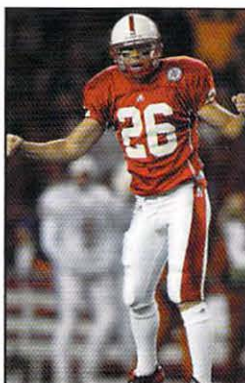
"We had to play as good as we could play tonight, and we still had trouble beating them at the end. Frank (Solich) is a great coach. They have great spirit, and they have great kids."

That great spirit seemed to be lacking at times earlier this season. But not now.

"We're very proud of how they continued to fight," said Bohl. "They've been challenged all year long, and they have never given up. And they will not give up."

He paused. "Any other questions?" he said.

For the time being, at least, none that needed answering. ■



Kicker Josh Brown said the Huskers never lost hope.

Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 20 years. Mike can be reached at MumblyDog@aol.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.

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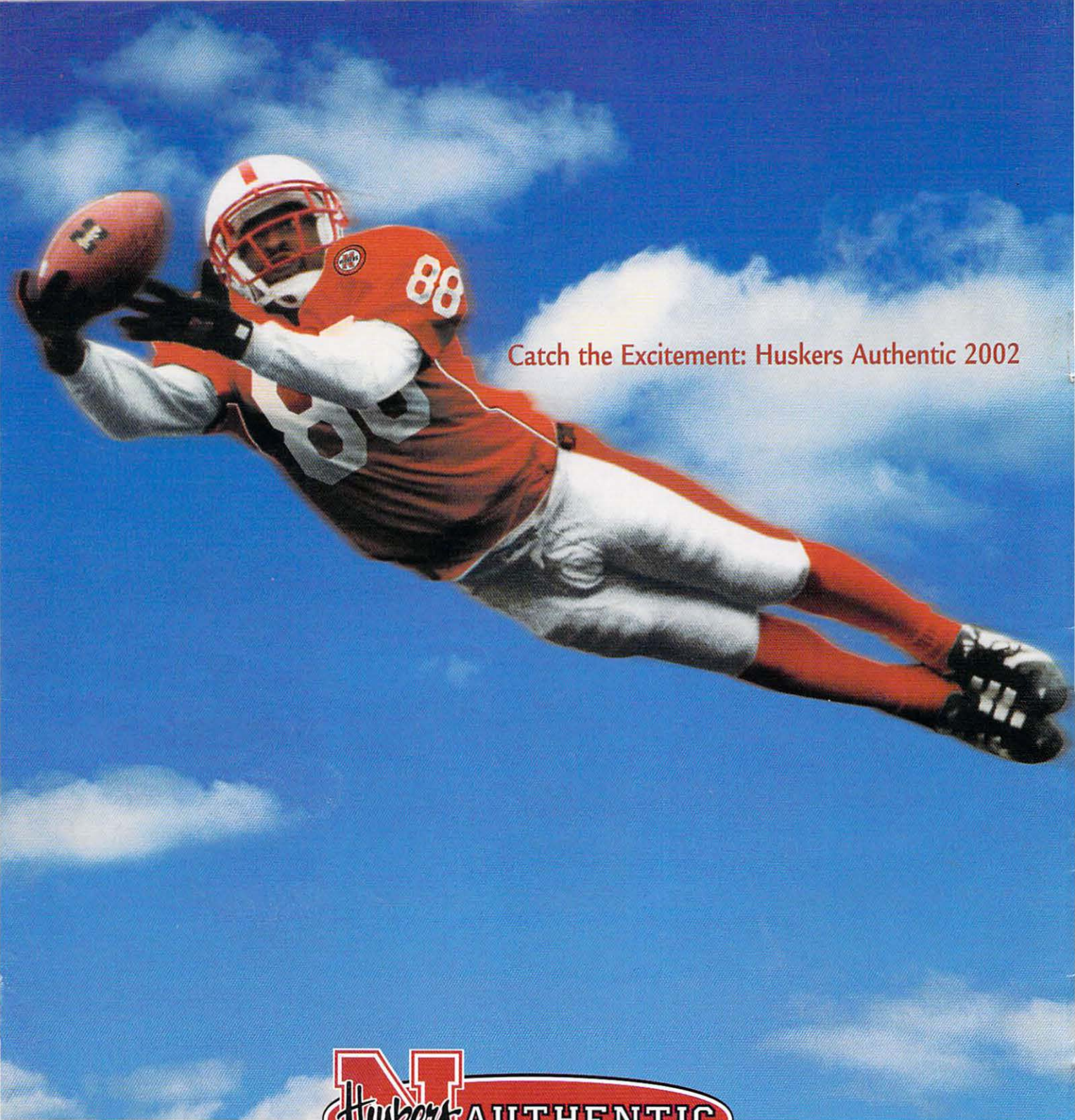


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